

THE INDEPENDENT

Friday 17 October 1997

45p No 3,430

INSIDE TODAY

THE EYE

Fry's Oscar declares his genius

18/WOMEN

The new career fear

TODAY'S NEWS

Sixth formers pay up

Sixth form colleges are charging students fees of up to £120 to enrol for A-level courses despite the fact that the law says tuition must be free for students up to the age of 18. A survey by *The Independent* shows that two-thirds of colleges are charging by asking students to pay registration fees or to contribute towards books. **Page 3**

Carpetbaggers outed

Britain's largest remaining building society, the Nationwide, has introduced a scheme to deter carpetbaggers, by forcing new customers to donate any future windfall bonuses to charity. **Page 4**

Road-rage clue

Police have released vital details about the car used by a road-rage driver to ram the back of a young couple's vehicle and force them off the road to their deaths. It is believed that the driver of the light-coloured saloon deliberately slammed into the back of the couple's car three times because he was angry they were keeping to the speed limit. **Page 6**

Paedophiles reined in

Ministers are looking at a package of new measures to protect children from abuse, including banning sex offenders from places where they might be likely to re-offend. The measures could be introduced first in Scotland. **Page 5**

Whitehall cull?

John Major's former press secretary, Jonathan Haslam, yesterday became the seventh senior Whitehall press officer to resign or move post since the election. The departure of a third of government information chiefs heightened suspicions that a Whitehall cull is being carried out by Mr Haslam's successor at Number 10, Alastair Campbell, Tony Blair's chief press secretary, and Peter Mandelson, the minister without portfolio. **Page 10**

Shell goes green

By 2050, half the world's energy is going to come from renewable sources such as sunshine, wind, running water and green plants rather than from oil, gas, coal and nuclear fission, according to a scenario set out by the Shell oil company yesterday. It said it would be investing £300m over the next five years in expanding its capacity to make solar cells and in growing trees to be burnt in electricity-generating power stations. It is a shift environmentalists have long been demanding. **Page 15**

SEEN & HEARD

The mystery of what some people keep in their private bank safes has been solved. Not ingots of gold bullion but bars of stolen soap – and a ham salad. These were among the more unusual items discovered when a fire at the Credit Lyonnais bank in Paris forced staff to open the boxes. Other, less conventional, items were a felt hat, jam and a bottle of whisky.

However, the more obvious trappings of wealth were also unearthed. One customer emptied his safe of about 100 paintings, including some by Picasso, Matisse and Chagall – kept at the bank because he already had 2,000 hanging in his home.

Giraffe women emerge from a forgotten world



Elderly Padaung women, known as giraffe women, wearing the traditional metal coils that are supposed to enhance their beauty.

About 50,000 Padaung survive in eastern Burma, one of the hundreds of small ethnic groups that have been cut

off from the world by Burma's secretive military regime, which is at war with some of them and bars most visitors from the border region.

The metal rings are first fitted to girls' necks, oiled with coconut and royal jelly, when they are 10. More are added

at two-year intervals until they marry. But such customs are fast dying out under the pressures of war and assimilation.

Photograph from *The Vanishing Tribes of Burma*, by Richard K. Diran, published at £40 next month by Weidenfeld & Nicolson

Smokers' families 25% more likely to get cancer

Shocking new research results show that living with a smoker increases the risk of heart disease and cancer by a quarter. Our Health Editor says the finding increases the likelihood of a Government ban on smoking in public places.

Tens of thousands of people die prematurely each year as a result of years spent breathing tobacco smoke in the air around them. Scientists say that non-smokers who live with a smoker have a 23 per cent increased risk of heart disease and a 26 per cent increased risk of lung cancer, even though they inhale only 1 per cent of the smoke.

It makes little difference whether the person you live with smokes ten or 60 cigarettes a day. The lethal dose is lower than has been realised and any extra exposure makes only a small difference.

The finding, by researchers from the Wolfson Institute for Preventive Medicine in London, is the most definitive evidence yet of the dangers of passive smoking and will add to the tobacco industry's woes. It suggests that the Government could cut heart disease deaths at a stroke by banning smoking in public places – an achievement that 20 years of cajoling about the nation's diet has failed to secure.

Tessa Jowell, minister for public health, said that the findings of the study, which was commissioned by the health department, made a "compelling case" for action. The Government is to publish a White Paper on tobacco control, expected next month.

"These are shocking figures, bearing in mind these are people who choose not to smoke... We are considering action to promote more smoke-free public places. It is not fair that people have no choice but to endure cigarette smoke, especially in the light of its known harmful effects," Ms Jowell said.

Unprecedented security surrounded release of the research which is published in tomorrow's *British Medical Journal*. Its editor, Dr Richard Smith, said he feared the tobacco industry might seek an injunction preventing distribution of the journal because it would strengthen the hand of non-smokers who had contracted lung cancer and were considering legal action.

The researchers analysed 19 studies of heart disease involving 6,600 cases and 37 studies of lung cancer involving 4,600 cases. They say they were astonished by the results on heart disease which were not expected.

Dr Malcolm Law, one of the authors, said: "We had always thought the risks of smoking were proportional to the amount smoked. In the case of heart disease, they

aren't. That is what is novel about this research."

The finding shows that a small exposure to tobacco has a large effect on heart disease. Although non-smokers breathe only 1 per cent of the smoke taken by smokers their risk of heart disease rises by almost one third of that of smokers (whose risk is increased by 80 per cent). The reason is, the researchers say, that the body's blood-clotting system is very sensitive to small amounts of smoke.

Lung cancer is 20-fold higher in smokers but the risk in this case is proportional to the amount smoked. Passive smokers suffer a 25 per cent increase in risk despite absorbing only one per cent of the smoke.

In health terms, the finding on heart disease is more important because, unlike lung cancer, it is common among non-smokers and any increase in risk translates into thousands of extra cases.

But in legal terms, the finding on lung cancer is more important because a non-smoker who lives with a smoker and develops lung cancer could have a case against a tobacco company. It would be much harder for a non-smoker to prove that heart disease was the direct result of living with a smoker.

The finding will require the tobacco industry to re-write advertisements such as that put out by Philip Morris which compared the risks of passive smoking to drinking a glass of milk or eating a biscuit.

An editorial in the *BMJ* dismisses the advertisement as "inane" and compares it to the industry's denials of the hazards of active smoking in past decades.

The British Medical Association said the research was the latest blow to the tobacco manufacturers in little more than a week.

A major UK cancer charity has announced plans to refuse funds to researchers who accept "tainted" tobacco money, airline attendants in the US have won a \$300m (£190m) settlement for the effects of passive smoking, new research published in the UK medical journal *Thorax* shows children of mothers who smoke suffer 70 per cent more respiratory illnesses and a report from the US Environmental Protection Agency in California linked passive smoking to cot death, heart disease and asthma.

Dr Bill O'Neill, science and research adviser to the BMA, said: "The new evidence has lessons for individual smokers who are exposing their loved ones to needless risk, as well as employers, pub and restaurant owners who all have a responsibility to eliminate tobacco smoke from public places."

"The tobacco industry must now stop its pathetic attempts to evade the evidence and accept that cigarettes not only harm and kill those who smoke them, they harm and kill non-smokers, too."

A spokesman for the Tobacco Manufacturers' Association said it would examine the study and take note of its findings.

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COLUMN ONE

Nature keeps a balance as tiny creature vanishes

Extinctions are the greatest of tragedies. An entire species is lost for eternity. But even the most romantic and dedicated of marine biologists must admit that the world may be able to get along without Iwell's sea anemone, news of whose demise emerged yesterday.

It was discovered 24 years ago in a small, salt-water lagoon at Shoreham, on the West Sussex seashore, by Richard Iwell, a graduate zoology student at Oxford University. It was quite new to science, and was given the official name *Edwardsia iwelli*. To have a creature named after you is a great coup for any biologist, even more so for a young one.

Mr Iwell's find was only three millimetres long, and almost colourless. It spent most of its life burrowing in the uppermost layer of mud in the lagoon; it had nine tentacles, each about six millimetres long, which it spread out through the ooze in search of food.

The creature was only ever found in that one location on a few occasions. When the lagoon, cut off from the sea by a shingle bank, was thoroughly searched a few years later, in 1983, the anemone – a fairly simple kind of animal – had disappeared.

Last month, a marine biology consultant carried out a new and exhaustive search, commissioned by the World Wide Fund for Nature. He too failed to find the anemone and so the fund is pronouncing the species extinct. All that remains are a few pickled specimens in little jars, kept at the Oxford Museum.

"This is a sad day for British conservation," said Callum Rankine, of WWF-UK. "It does not bode well for the future to lose such a rare species." He speculates that changes in salinity and temperature in the lagoon were to blame. The sea anemone was one of 116 very rare or declining British plant and animal species covered by "action plans" agreed between the Government and the nation's leading wildlife conservation bodies, such as WWF. The action plan for this species consisted mainly of trying to find it. The man who formally introduced the species to the scientific world is Richard Manuel, a technician at Oxford University who wrote a paper describing the anemone in great detail in the *Journal of Natural History*. And he believes it may not be extinct. "Perhaps it lives in other countries, but never has been found and described. There are saline lagoons on the other side of the Channel in France with crystal clear water – perhaps it lives there," he said. Mr Iwell, by the way, now lives in Germany.

The last species unique to Britain to enter the eternal night of extinction was a grass, *Bromus interruptus*. But not quite. It only actually died out in the wild in 1972, but lives on a botanical garden.

But even as we lose one species, we gain another. For nature conservationists, yesterday's other big news was the announcement that the



little egret (above) has begun breeding in Britain. Global warming may be the explanation.

It is a small, snowy white heron which lives in the Middle East and along the shores of the Mediterranean. But this sub-tropical species has gradually been moving north. Before the war it was unknown in Britain, but its numbers have been creeping up as it flies over from northern France. Several hundred can be present along the south coast of England at the same time. The question was – when would they become breeding residents? The Wildlife Trusts, a nationwide coalition of county conservation groups, said it had proof that the egrets have now nested and successfully raised young for two years at two sites along the Dorset Coast, one of them Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour.

— Nicholas Schoon

PEOPLE



Clarke faces the music over new tobacco job

It looked as though Kenneth Clarke had never had it so good. Having shrugged off his defeat by William Hague for the leadership of the Conservative Party, the cigar-loving former Chancellor yesterday picked up a lucrative directorship with a tobacco conglomerate, made his debut as a disc jockey and starred in an Oxford Union debate.

But, after emerging as Nottinghamshire's answer to Chris Evans and Zoe Ball, the day began to spin out of control as Mr Clarke came under withering fire for accepting a seat on the board of the cigarette giant, British American Tobacco (BAT).

"As a former Health Secretary, Clarke should be ashamed of himself," said Clive Bates, director of Action on Smoking and Health. "Clarke's move again reveals the last government's cosy links with the tobacco industry."

Before being attacked for accepting his third highly paid job in the City after leaving the Treasury, the former Chancellor had moved effortlessly from spinning reports about the "booming" British economy to spinning jazz records as a part-time DJ. "Jazz is a serious business – so serious, I'm prepared to do it free and for love," he said.

But, as Mr Clarke was preparing to play for the love of it, he also announced he had secured the

nice little earner with the tobacco company. BAT refused to disclose his salary, but it could run into six figures. Mr Clarke is also non-executive chairman of UniChem, the chemicals group, for which he is paid a salary of £120,000 for between one-and-a-half and two days a week.

As Home Secretary, Mr Clarke (above) once appointed Sir Patrick Sheehy, then chairman of BAT, to investigate police pay and promotion. Sir Patrick left the company two years ago, but Mr Clarke will join the board as non-executive deputy chairman, the company said. He is also non-executive director of Foreign & Colonial Investment Trust, the UK's oldest fund manager, where he earns £18,000 for one day a month attending a board meeting.

An habitu  of jazz clubs such as Ronnie Scott's since the Sixties, Mr Clarke last night was offering local listeners a wide range of jazz music "from King Oliver to Ornette Coleman".

To round off his day, as his recorded jazz show went out, Mr Clarke headed off for the Oxford Union, to join John Redwood and Alan Duncan in a censure debate on the Blair government.

The perfect end to a profitable, but controversial, day.

— Colin Brown

Beckinsale leaves her mark on a city pavement



Actress Kate Beckinsale is reveling in the success of her new film, *Shooting Fish*. Premiered this week at the Odeon West End in London's Leicester Square, the film is garnering good reviews despite being rejected two television companies. Eventually it was made with the help of a £1m lottery grant.

Asked if she thinks the part lottery-funded movie will be a hit, she said: "I don't know if people will like this but we had a great time making it."

Beckinsale is currently filming *Broke Down Palace* in New York, about two girls imprisoned in Thailand for heroin smuggling.

Ms Beckinsale left the gala first night after leaving her mark in plaster for Leicester Square's pavement handprint display. She joins an illustrious line of actors there, including Arnold Schwarzenegger and Michael Caine.

Tonypandy denounced by former Tory MP

Lord Tonypandy, the revered Commons Speaker who died last month aged 88, was denounced by a distinguished historian and former Tory MP today as "an arrogant, sanctimonious, deceitful and malicious bully".

And, in the astonishing attack, Sir Robert Rhodes James said there were those who regarded him "as a fraud and a charlatan, eager to bend the knee to anyone above his station and thinly contemptuous of anyone deemed to be below it".

Sir Robert, who was a clerk of the House of Commons before he became an MP, will stoke up outrage at this onslaught which appears in the *Spectator* magazine under the heading "Not As Nice as All That". He recalls: "My first encounter with George [George Thomas was his original name]

was in the early 1960s, when I was a clerk of the House of Commons and he was chairing his first standing committee. It was a fairly insignificant committee dealing with private members' bills, but George behaved as though he was the new headmaster of a turbulent school which needed to be taught a severe lesson. His harshness was directed less at the Members than at the hapless officials; he bawled out the policeman at the door for not closing it on time; he was nasty to the *Hansard* reporters; he treated me with contemptuous disdain ... Unsurprisingly, we deeply disliked him, regarding him as an arrogant, sanctimonious, deceitful and malicious bully."

He added: "The mutual antipathy between him and the clerks was to survive during his Speakership".

UPDATE

RETAIL

Supermarkets to serve food safety

The creation of a Food Safety Agency may reassure the public but will have only a small part to play in ensuring the food on our tables is safe, according to research by the Economic and Social Research Council which says that standards of food quality are increasingly driven by the big five of grocery retailing.

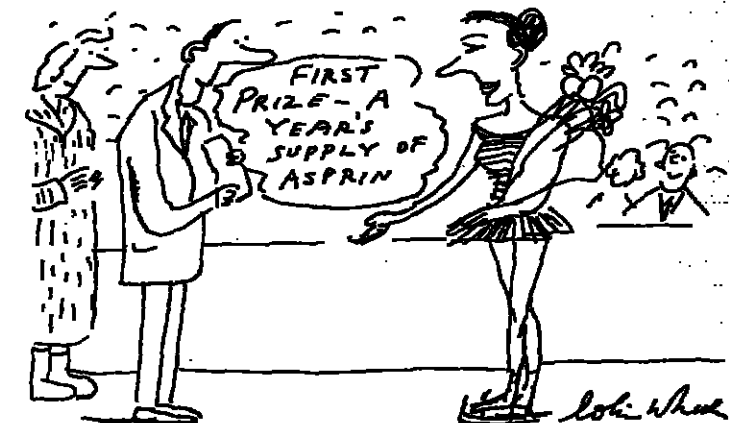
Sainsbury, Tesco, Safeway, Gateway/Somerfield and Asda have 67 per cent of the packaged grocery market and, says the report, "are the new masters of the food system". With Marks & Spencer it has been the supermarkets who have developed quality definitions for food, hygiene and hazard systems which go well beyond existing safety and hygiene laws. The grocers also regulate their own food supply chains.

The authors reveal that although the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food has given the go-ahead to sales of irradiated food, sales in the UK are small because supermarkets won't touch it because they think their customers won't buy it. The work of environmental health officers and trading standards officers has also changed because of the superleague of grocers. Now officers do not regulate the stores so much as test their management systems. The authors conclude that the Food Safety Agency cannot compete with the supermarkets but should make it its priority to oversee the independent sector of the grocery trade and encourage public understanding of food hygiene.

— Glenda Cooper

SPORT

Skaters in a spin over headaches



Skaters who go into a spin are at higher risk of migraine, scientists have found. Spins performed by freestyle skaters appear to mimic migraine by forcing blood away from the centre of the brain. During a migraine attack, blood vessels inside the head contract, starving the brain of blood in a similar way. Researchers in the United States found that 22 per cent of skaters who performed spins suffered from migraine, compared with 4 per cent who avoided spins. Although it is impossible to say whether the sport causes migraine or merely tips someone with a tendency into an attack, the researchers say almost two thirds of skaters with migraine say their problems began after taking it up.

— Jeremy Lawrence

FINANCE

Retail cards take more of the credit

Sales via retail credit cards have more than doubled since 1993, according to a new report, *Retail Credit Cards*, but unless they offer the right incentives and benefits they could lose out to other credit cards.

Among the adult population more than four out of five now own one or more plastic cards with almost 97 million cards in issue.

But the increasingly competitive credit card market retail credit cards currently offer the customer little incentive to choose them over other forms of plastic says Mintel, who published the report.

● *Retail Credit Cards* is available from Mintel price £545: 0171-606 6000

— Glenda Cooper

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Botham finds himself on a sticky wicket

Former England cricket captain Ian Botham yesterday hit back at his former solicitors after they served a writ on him for allegedly not paying them £100,000 in fees.

The firm, Sweepstone Walsh, has demanded the payment in full of legal bills relating to Botham's ill-fated libel action against former Pakistan cricket captain, Imran Khan.

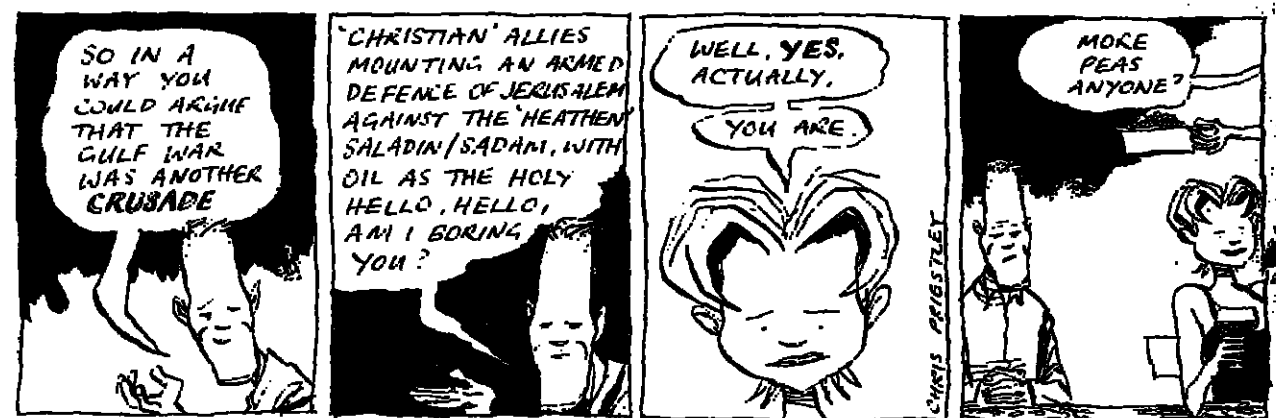
But Botham countered in a statement released by his new solicitors, Meer, Care & Desai, saying he was "extremely surprised and hurt at this totally unjustified course of action". The statement continued: "Ian Botham has today been served with a writ by his former solicitors, Sweepstone and Walsh, alleging non-payment of their fees."

"Mr Botham has already paid a substantial sum on account of their fees. He has, on professional advice, made no further payment until the receipt of a detailed and itemised bill."

"The matter has been placed in the hands of new solicitors acting for Mr Botham."

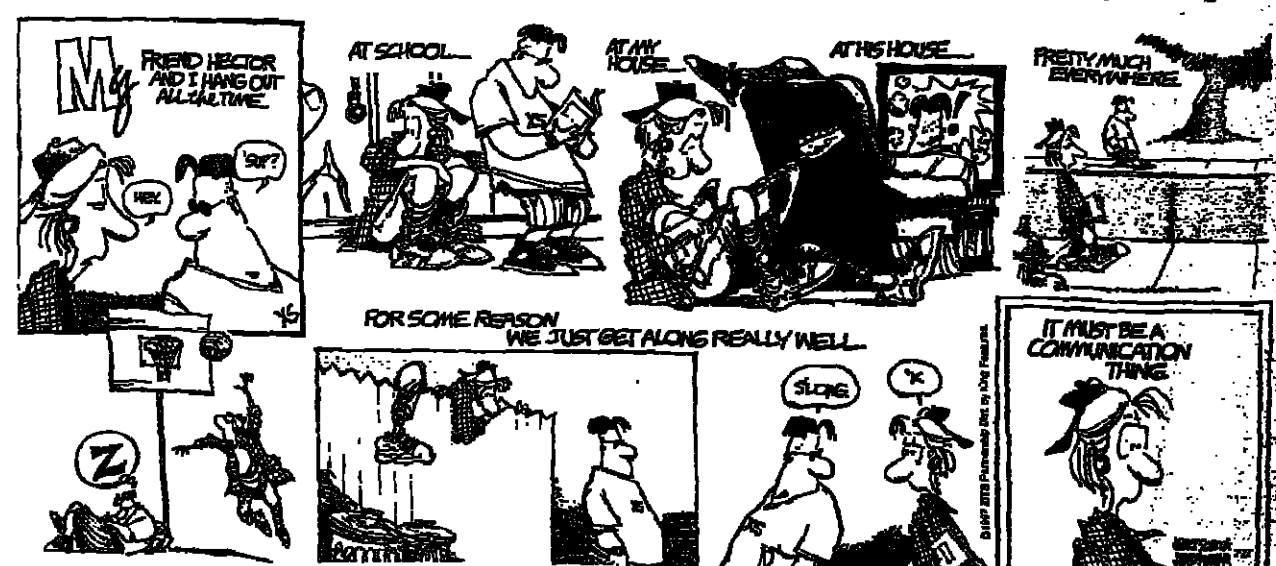
Botham and former England colleague Allan Lamb sued Imran for libel in the High Court last year, but lost the case.

7.30 FOR 8



by Chris Priestley

ZITS



by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

هكذا من الأصل

The world's #1 car rental company



The actress Liz Hurley arriving yesterday at the Pink Ribbon lunch at Harrods store, London, to launch a new breast cancer research study. Photograph: Philip Meach

Carpentbaggers must give windfalls to charity

Nationwide Building Society has gone on the offensive to stop carpenbaggers from forcing it to convert to a bank and pay out huge windfalls. Andrew Verity discovers that new customers will have to assign bonus payouts to charity.

Nationwide hopes the move will stop carpenbaggers who open accounts solely to benefit from windfalls. By insisting on the "charity clause", Nationwide will be able to drop high minimum balances on new accounts which were designed to put off opportunists.

Brian Davis, chief executive, said: "We can now concentrate on what building societies do best - delivering better rates and services to the ordinary man and woman on the street. We are ending the speculative disruption which has in the past prevented us from giving our customers the level of service they deserve."

Until yesterday, Nationwide was forced to deter new customers by insisting on high minimum balances when customers opened new accounts. This helped stem a flood of

applications by carpenbaggers - people speculating that the society would convert to a bank and give out windfall shares worth hundreds of pounds for each member.

In June, Nationwide went as far as closing off all new accounts after receiving 25,000 applications every day. Speculation was heightened when five Nationwide members who favoured conversion tried to win elections to the society's board. They were resoundingly defeated in July.

But carpenbaggers have continued to disrupt Nationwide's business. High minimum balances designed to put off carpenbaggers have also put off children and others who want to save. Nationwide believes its charity clause will solve this problem. By insisting new members assign their windfall rights to charity, it has removed the incentive to open an account for the sake of a windfall.

In a bid to show that mutual building societies give better value than banks, the society is paying interest of 6.7 per cent on its instant access account. This is higher than its closest rivals Tesco and Sainsbury's with 6.5 per cent. The charity clause will only apply to new members. Members of Nationwide who opened their accounts before yesterday will keep their right to receive windfall payments.

Government put its weight behind hiring British videos

The Government yesterday launched a new drive to persuade customers in video shops to buy or hire British films in preference to Hollywood blockbusters.

Tom Clarke, the films minister, announced last night that the first National Video Week was being organised for next summer to raise the profile of the British film industry.

Senior figures in the video industry admitted yesterday that while British films are becoming increasingly popular overseas, video shops in Britain often leave critically acclaimed British films out of sight while showcasing the action and adventure diet of Hollywood. British films were widely regarded as being "too much effort" for viewers while American movies were seen as a "safe bet". As a result, they said, well-received films such as *Secrets and Lies* and *Brassed Off* are losing vital revenue.

Mr Clarke said: "In 1996 the video industry was worth an amazing £1.3bn and it continues to grow at more than twice the rate of inflation. It is a significant source of revenue not just for films but for classic television drama, for sport, for music, and for children's programmes." He was speaking at an awards dinner for the British Video Association, which honoured Desmond Llewellyn - who played the part of Q in the *Bond* films - for his contribution to the British film industry.

The National Video Week will be focused on a gala festival in Battersea Park, London, designed to promote British films.

— Ian Burrell



Crowds massed outside the HMV shop, in Oxford Street, London, yesterday for Paul McCartney's first album signing since 1963. Photograph: Neville Elder

Saudi nurses may get five years

Two British nurses accused of murdering an Australian colleague in Saudi Arabia may face only five years in jail, the Saudi ambassador in London said yesterday.

The agreement by Youssef Gilford's brother to waive the right to demand the death penalty in return for £750,000 had lifted the threat of execution hanging over Deborah Parry, Dr Ghazi Algosabi said. And Frank Gilford's decision, announced on Wednesday in Australia, meant the judgment against Lucille McLauchlan - who was sentenced 500 lashes and eight years imprisonment for her part in the killing - could also be reviewed.

"According to the Saudi legal system, when the next of kin pardons, as he did, the court will apply the lesser sentence of jail, usually not exceeding five years," Dr Algosabi said in a statement. Dr Algosabi added: "The case is not yet over and there are further steps before the final verdict is announced. I do sincerely hope that the media will see fit to declare 'time out' and allow the judges and the lawyers to get on with their jobs."

Earlier Parry's family had said they were "absolutely delighted" that the victim's brother has waived his right to demand the death penalty for her.

Lords defeat on handguns

The Government suffered an embarrassing defeat in the Lords last night over its plans to introduce a total ban on handguns.

Peers voted by 120 to 101, a majority of 19, to make the disabled exempt from the handgun ban, to be brought in under the Government's Firearms (Amendment) Bill.

The move to allow disabled people to continue shooting was introduced by former Labour sports minister Lord Howell and drew cross-party support.

Lord Howell told peers that he had campaigned for much of his life for the rights of disabled sportsmen and women and this took precedence over his party loyalty.

Dodi Fayed's remains re-buried in secret

The remains of Dodi Fayed, who died in the car crash in Paris that killed the Princess of Wales, have been secretly exhumed and re-buried on his father's country estate.

Mr Fayed's grave at Brookwood Cemetery near Woking, Surrey, was opened in the middle of Wednesday night with private security guards standing by. The coffin was removed by undertakers and taken 25 miles to his home at Oxted, Surrey, accompanied by Mohammed Al Fayed.

There, Dodi Fayed was buried in a new grave in the 500-acre grounds, close to his father's mansion, while the family awaits the results of an application to build an elaborate tomb.

The exhumation follows permission obtained by Mr Fayed from the Home Office for his son's remains to be moved. Michael Cole, the spokesman for Mr Fayed, confirmed yesterday that the transfer had taken place. "The coffin was moved during the evening... completed in privacy, and the coffin reinterred in a tranquil and beautiful part of the estate," he said.

Dodi Fayed had been buried in a plot at Brookwood specially selected by his father. A garden of remembrance was landscaped around the grave where Dodi had lain for the traditional 40 days of Muslim

mourning, which ended last Thursday. A simple headstone bearing just the name Dodi was erected and bodyguards firing in a camper van had kept a round-the-clock watch. The grave had become a place of pilgrimage and Mr Cole said that Mr Fayed had visited his son's grave most nights.

An application by Mr Fayed to build an elaborate burial chamber that will become the family's personal "pyramid" on his estate is to be considered by the planning committee of Tandridge District Council early next month. The architect-designed walk-in vault covers an area 12-metres square sunk one-and-a-half metres below ground. It will have four entrances with huge oak doors reinforced with wrought iron topped by an opaque dome.

The leaded roof will be surrounded with ornate wooden carvings and granite outer walls bearing inscriptions from the Koran. Inside it will have cylindrical pillars from floor to ceiling and will contain eight burial chambers. The walls are to be lined with mosaic and oak pergolas planted with shrubs and vines. Mr Cole said yesterday that the structure would not be visible from any public highway, and would not be open to the public.

— Jojo Moyes

DIRECT LINE INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNT

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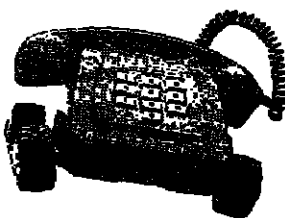
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5/CHILDREN AT RISK

THE INDEPENDENT
FRIDAY
17 OCTOBER 1997

هكذا من الأصل

Killer hides in police cell from an angry public

For two days, child sex killer Robert Oliver has been living in a police cell to protect him from the public. But the door is unlocked and he is free to leave at any time without reporting to the authorities. Ian Burrell says 200 more sex offenders could similarly be released without supervision.

The mothers and children walking past the police station in Brighton yesterday were unaware of the close presence of a murderous child abuser. But the police officers who sought to keep Robert Oliver's presence a secret from the public feared as much for the killer's safety as for the threat he posed to others. Oliver, who was sentenced to 15 years for the murder of 14-year-old Jason Swift, was described by police yesterday as being "frightened and destitute".

Since being released from Wandsworth prison three weeks ago and registering on the national paedophile register, Oliver has been housed out of Swindon, London, Liverpool and Manchester.

He cut his hair and wore glasses to avoid recognition, but when he arrived in Brighton social services sent warning letters to the parents of 27,000 children in the town.

In an interview with the Brighton *Evening Argus*, Oliver, 43, complained: "I am constantly looking over my shoulder. I am frightened for my life. It feels like a lynch mob is out there waiting to get me."

Sussex police has moved him to a police station in another part of the force area, and is bearing the estimated £110-a-day cost of his stay. A spokesman said it was cheaper to keep Oliver in the station than to deploy resources keeping him under surveillance on the streets.

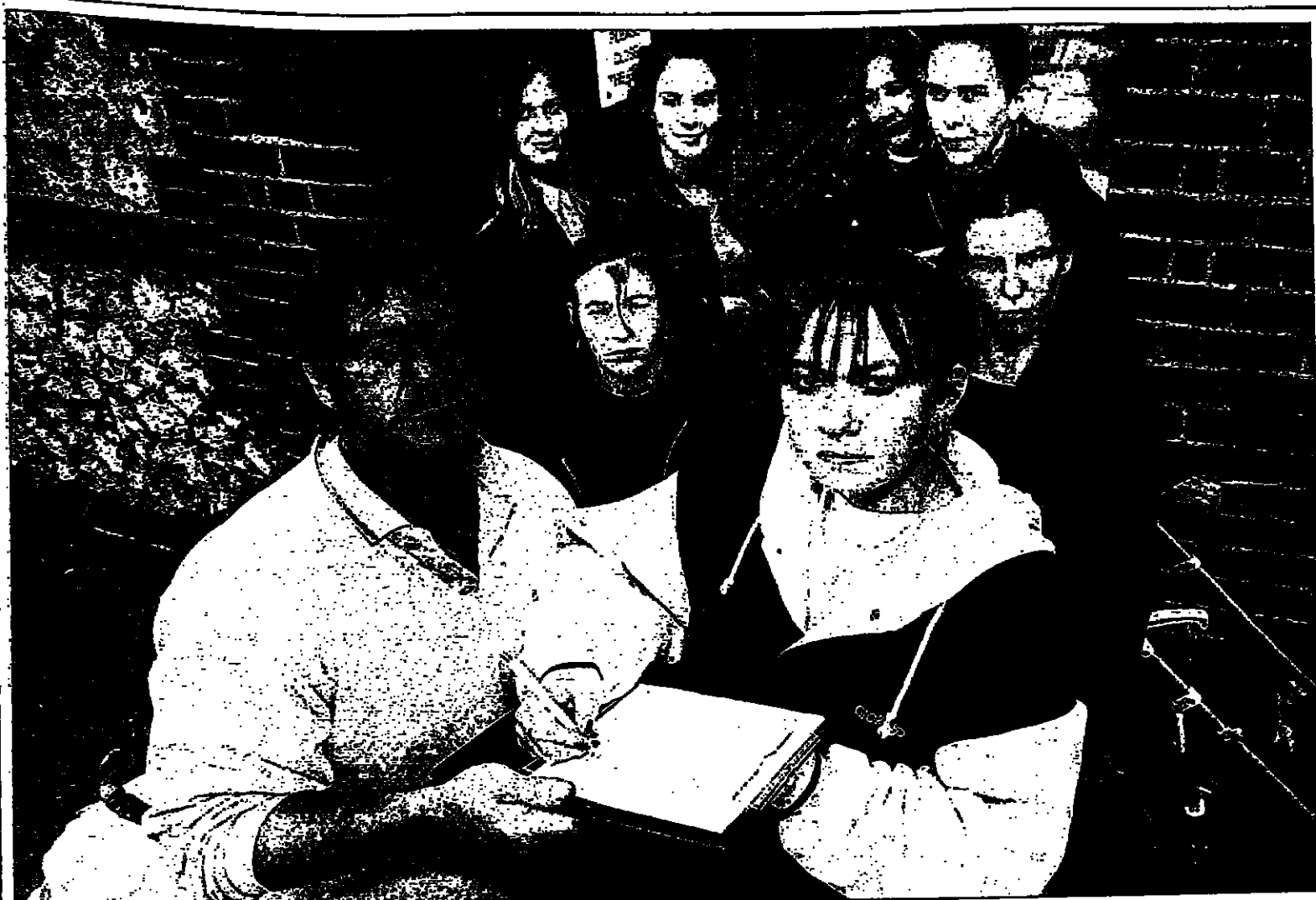
"This is only a short-term solution. He could leave at any time but there is no sign that he will. We are working with social services to find a long term solution which would mean secure accommodation."

Yet because Oliver was sentenced prior to the Criminal Justice Act of 1992 he is not subject to any supervision order and is free to come and go as he pleases.

The National Association of Probation Officers yesterday estimated that there were some 200 sex offenders, all sentenced before 1992, who could also be released without such orders. Among them could be Oliver's former partner in crime Sidney Cooke.

Yesterday, a national campaign was launched to lobby Jack Straw, the home secretary, to block Cooke's release. The campaign - "Stop Paedophiles Exploiting and Abusing Kids" (Speak) - has been set up by Kate Lowes, a nurse from Sunderland.

Cooke, 68, was sentenced to 19 years - reduced to 16 on appeal - for his part in a murderous paedophile ring in Hackney, east London. The gang was responsible for the deaths of at least three boys, Jason Swift, Mark Tildersley and Barry Lewis.



Concern: Parents in Brighton collecting signatures for a petition demanding the expulsion of child killer Robert Oliver

Photograph: Evening Argus

Plan to ban paedophiles from public places

In the past fortnight, the police have registered 3,000 sex offenders on the new national paedophile register. Ian Burrell outlines proposals to ban child molesters from areas where they might be a risk to children.

The question of whether a child abuser deserves the same civil rights as the rest of the general public is taxing the Government.

The Home Office said yesterday that ministers were looking at a package of new measures to protect children from abuse, including banning sex offenders from places where they might be likely to re-offend. A spokeswoman said that ministers were not yet sure that the proposal was workable.

But Henry McLeish, the Scottish home affairs minister, had few doubts as he revealed that his department wished to introduce the orders with a five-year jail sentence for failure to comply. "We are keen to put this piece of the jigsaw in place," he said. "If there is a concern in a community, there could be a court order backed up by reports which will actually infringe on the liberties of this individual. It will detail areas they cannot go to."

"This could be an indefinite order, depending on their behaviour... this will put tremendous pressure on the individual and more importantly it will reassure the community that the Government is listening, the Government wants further action."

Mr McLeish denied that the proposal represented an unreasonable infringement of civil liberties. "We believe that some people's rights may have to be curbed if they are posing a threat," he said.

Scottish sheriffs could choose to bar paedophiles from burger bars, amusement ar-

cade and other commercial premises as well as public areas.

Paul Cavadino, chairman of the Penal Affairs Consortium, said he was concerned that a five-year jail term might be imposed for "activity which does not amount to a sexual offence or an active attempt to commit one." He said he would prefer new legislation requiring lengthier post-release supervision for convicted paedophiles, which could include conditions restricting movement.

The need to address the growing public concern over the lack of checks on the activities of paedophiles is near the top of the Home Office agenda. Ministers are also looking at indeterminate sentences for more serious offenders. The Crime and Disorder Bill is intended to provide for greater supervision of sex offenders in the community.

Until even the 1980s, only scant knowledge existed of the activities of paedophiles and the lengths they were prepared to go to procure victims. Even now, the full extent of sex offending against children in Britain is not clear.

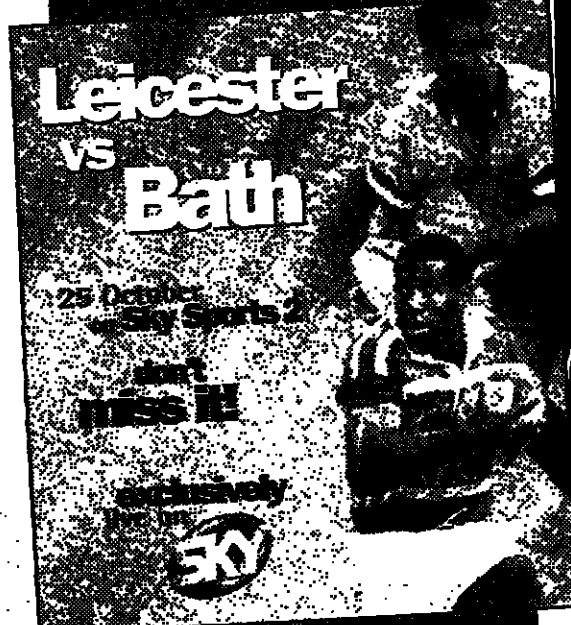
The National Criminal Intelligence Service has some 25,000 individuals on its system, including some who have never been convicted but who are strongly suspected of abusing children. Past Home Office studies have suggested that there may be as many as 110,000 child abusers in England and Wales.

Some 3,000 people have come forward to be placed on the new national paedophile register, set up a fortnight ago for offenders currently on supervision or parole. Police said 83 per cent of the names on their files had been accounted for.

But Harry Fletcher, the assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, said: "The fact that they have put themselves on the register does not tell us whether they are continuing to prey on children."

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Molester jailed

A convicted child molester who walked free from court last June was ordered to jail for 15 months by the Court of Appeal yesterday. Three judges headed by the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham, upheld a complaint from Attorney General John Morris that the 18-month suspended sentence on oil company executive Peter Reed was "unduly lenient". Reed, 44, of Sevenoaks, Kent, had admitted six charges of indecently assaulting three boys aged between seven and 11. The boys' parents were furious when Judge Anthony Balston, sitting at Maidstone Crown Court, suspended the sentence for two years, despite reports that Reed was at present a continuing risk to children.

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THE INDEPENDENT
FRIDAY
17 OCTOBER 1997

6/CRIME

Mother makes appeal as police search for road-rage killer

A young couple appear to have been killed by a road-rage driver. Jason Bennett, Crime Correspondent, reports on developments in the police investigation and the grief felt by relatives.

The mother of the woman who was killed along with her boyfriend when their car was apparently rammed into the path of another spoke yesterday about the "maniac" who caused the couple's deaths.

Detectives on the case released details about the car used by the alleged road rage driver. The motorist appears to have been incensed because the vehicle in front of him was not going fast enough.

Police believe the driver deliberately slammed into the back of the couple's car three times.

Toby Exley, 22, and Karen Martin, 20, died after their black Ford Fiesta XR2 was finally rammed across the central reservation of the dual carriageway A316 at Hanworth, west London, and into the path of an oncoming Vauxhall Cavalier.

Miss Martin's mother, Kay, said: "There must be someone out there who knows who this maniac is."

"This man is likely to do this again and he needs to be stopped. We want to prevent another family feeling the utter devastation that we're feeling now."

She added: "We're still living a nightmare, we're just hoping that we wake up from it. It's like an absolute void without Karen and Toby."

"They were such lovely people, a beautiful couple. They were very much in love, it was a really serious relationship."

"There is no way that Toby would have taken any chances with Karen in the car as he was too much in love with her to put her in any danger."

The crash took place on Monday of last week but police



Karen Martin, left, and her boyfriend Toby Exley: "They were such lovely people, a beautiful couple. They were very much in love, it was a serious relationship"

only released details on Wednesday evening after two witnesses came forward. The witnesses are believed to have been in vehicles overtaken by the speeding car.

Scotland Yard said the road-rage vehicle is believed to be a

"powerful" light-coloured saloon car with a registration number beginning K5.

Investigators believe the couple's Fiesta had just left a 40mph zone at about 8.50pm and was accelerating in the outside lane of the dual car-

riageway up to 70mph as it neared the M3 and overtook a motorcycle.

But the driver behind became impatient and began bumping into the Fiesta, finally forcing it through a wooden fence on to the London-bound

carriageway. The driver of the Cavalier, who suffered a broken arm and teeth in the crash, was still in a state of shock.

Mr Exley, a chef, of Teddington, west London, and Miss Martin, who worked for an advertising agency and lived in Twickenham, became inseparable after starting their relationship in February last year. They were buried next to each other earlier this week.

Mr Exley's brother Robin, 19, said: "The person who did this should be stopped and they should stop and think about our family and Karen's family. Anyone out there could be victims of this person."

If the driver was found, he could face a charge of either manslaughter or causing death by dangerous driving.

Robin also said he hoped his brother's personal organiser could be found as he may have written details about the road-rage car in it, but it is unlikely to have survived the crash.

Anyone with information can contact police on 0181 247 6377 or 0800 555 111.

Straw gives blessing to police CS spray

The Home Office has just completed a review into the use of CS spray following the death of a man in police custody. Despite this, Jason Bennett, Crime Correspondent, predicts that nothing will change.

The use of CS spray by police officers was given the backing of Jack Straw, Home Secretary, yesterday, who said the device posed no significant health threat.

His comments follow the call by a coroner earlier this month to re-examine the use of CS after an inquest jury returned a verdict of unlawful killing on a man who died shortly after being sprayed.

Ibrahim Sey, 29, a Gambian asylum-seeker, was sprayed in the face with CS despite being surrounded by police officers and having his hands chained behind his back.

He died as a result of asphyxia due to the position in which he was restrained and because of a mental illness.

The case highlighted growing concerns that the solvent used in the spray was dangerous and the concentra-

tion of the CS could cause severe burning and breathing difficulties.

Most of the forces in Britain are now using the hand-held sprays, but two forces have refused because of concerns about the side-effects. Two Scottish police forces halted pilot studies of CS spray following the Sey inquest, but have since re-started them.

However Mr Straw, speaking at the Association of Chief Police Officers' autumn conference in Warwick, said: "I have read all of the pathologist's reports and other medical and toxicological evidence submitted to the Ibrahim Sey inquest."

"The coroner's recommendations might lead one to think that the inquest had seen evidence which cast doubts on the acceptability of CS spray but I am satisfied this is not the case."

"There is nothing in the evidence to suggest that CS and the solvent MIBK, separately or in combination, present any significant threat to human health."

He added: "Police officers deserve the best protection that we can provide."

Mr Sey was arrested in March last year and taken to Ilford police station, east London, where a struggle broke out

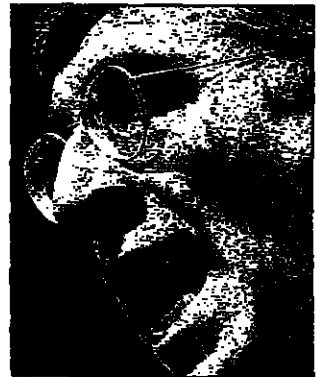
in which the 18-stone Mr Sey was forced to the ground and handcuffed. The struggle continued with up to eight officers and a woman police officer sprayed him in the face from about six feet. Mr Sey was then taken to a custody suite, laid face down on the floor and searched until one officer realised he had stopped breathing.

Dr Harold Price, the coroner, said: "The use of CS spray should be reviewed by all police forces. The guidelines for its use in the first place and the verbal warning given should be explored."

Lee Jasper, vice chairman of the National Assembly Against Racism, yesterday attacked Mr Straw's decision. "It's absolutely ludicrous. The British police are using spray five times greater in strength than the police in the United States. Even after a serious incident such as the death of Mr Sey it's still considered to be safe."

Mr Straw, who said he hoped his brother's personal organiser could be found as he may have written details about the road-rage car in it, but it is unlikely to have survived the crash.

Anyone with information can contact police on 0181 247 6377 or 0800 555 111.



Straw: "Spray is no threat"

Killer escapes jail

A woman who stabbed her partner to death when she thought he was going to attack her escaped a prison sentence yesterday.

Mary Mullins, 37, endured four years of beatings until she snuggled when bodybuilder Ronnie Griffiths, 50, played music at full volume as she tried to get their baby to sleep. Fearing another assault, she stabbed him in the chest. A Cardiff Crown Court judge took pity on her after hearing how just a few hours before the killing she had begged police to take her to a refuge to escape from the violence of her common-law husband, known in the area as "Ronnie Muscles". Ms Mullins was given a two-year suspended sentence after pleading guilty to manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility.

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Front page meets bottom line as the LA Times expands

The Los Angeles Times is one of America's national institutions. Now fears that the impact of commercialism will turn it upside down have prompted an exodus of top journalists. *Tim Cornwell finds out whether their fears for the future are justified*

All is not well at the Los Angeles Times, one of America's largest newspapers. In recent weeks, first the publisher, and now the paper's editor have resigned in a hurry, citing no particular plans.

The reason, apparently, is Mark Willes, the former cereal company executive who has compared marketing newspapers to selling a box of Cheerios or bleach. It is not simply that Mr Willes, chief executive of the Los Angeles Times group and now its publisher, has announced his intention of boosting his sales from about one to 1.5 million. It is how he plans to meet this extraordinary tar-

managers on how to reach new readers, particularly women and the growing Hispanic community in Southern California. Frequently-held polls will find out what the readers want.

Mr Willes' plans for a special section for Latino readers provoked a minor revolt on the grounds it would ghettoise the news, and 100 journalists signed a letter calling it "offensive". The reorganisation apparently prompted the departure of long-time editor Shelby Coffey.

One the one hand, Mr Willes, 56, is optimistic on the future of the newspaper business, which is being squeezed by television and the Internet. "They are such remarkable value, they are convenient, they are user-friendly," he told *The Independent*.

Since he became chief executive of the Times Mirror Group, which includes seven US newspapers but has the Times as its flagship, share prices have tripled over three years. He has appointed a Pulitzer Prize-winning former foreign correspondent, Michael Parks, as his new editor.

But he rapidly earned the nickname "Cereal Killer" after

New Yorkers wake up to a splash of colour

The New York Times' crossed a rubicon yesterday, using colour on its front page for the first time in its history.

When it introduced colour on the fronts of inside sections on 15 September, the newspaper said that its front page would remain grey a bit longer, until the production staff got used to the process and editors had a really strong picture to run.

Yesterday's front page had two colour photographs: baseball star Tony Fernandez of the Cleveland Indians, and Attorney General Janet Reno.

Other New York papers have joined the international trend of adding colour. The Daily News started using colour photos on the first and last two pages of its weekday editions in September, and the New York Post introduced a colour pullout TV schedule.

— AP

get, at a time when US newspaper circulation is declining, that has prompted a minor crisis of confidence.

In recent days, Los Angeles Times journalists have appeared in the pages of rival newspapers, on and off the record, to lament that Mr Willes is crossing one of the most hallowed lines in the profession — between the business and editorial departments.

They have raised the fear that by breaking this "Chinese wall", their journalistic integrity will be compromised, with reporters kowtowing to commercial concerns.

Founded in the late 19th century, the Los Angeles Times was from the start a great promoter of its home city as the "most beautiful inhabited by the human family". The paper still has a provincial touch, with many local editions, but it has evolved, just as California has. It is the largest metropolitan daily behind the New York Times and has an editorial staff of about 1,000, with no serious rival on the West Coast.

In the last eight years, it has won four Pulitzer Prizes, in part by throwing its resources at earthquake and riot. Circulation, however, has slipped in the last five years. Mr Willes now wants editors of each section of the paper to join what have been dubbed "vision meetings" with advertising and business

rounds of cuts and lay-offs. And the hard-nosed business interests of a Utah native appear to have clashed with the culture of American journalism, which prides itself on professionalism and integrity, sometimes at the price of long-windedness.

"He's just breaking rules right and left and Wall Street seems to be extremely happy and the journalism community ranges from uncomfortable to horrified," said one Times staffer. "One analogy that people have been using is that he wants to move very fast but we don't know where."

In his interview, Mr Willes sounded mildly dismayed by the future. He had been prepared for bad press, but not the "amount and relentlessness" of the coverage, he said. He was offended also by the implication that only long-serving journalists possessed moral backbone. He had been a newspaper junkie all his life, he said, though he was only hired by Times-Mirror after a headhunter had approached him.

"It's like selling bleach in the sense that if you can help convince the consumer that you have something exceptionally useful and valuable, you can sell more," he said. "On the other hand, newspaper isn't at all like bleach, and that's one of the things that attracted me to this industry."



Integrity: American journalism can be pedantic and long-winded, but writers and editors pride themselves on their professionalism and devotion to duty, typified by the movie *The Front Page*, starring Jack Lemmon, which features an obsessive editor tricking his star photographer into covering one last story

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Devon hit by earth tremor

An earthquake measuring 2.8 on the Richter scale shook the West Country yesterday. Seismologists confirmed it was the largest quake to hit Devon for more than 12 years.

The epicentre was at Totnes and tremors were felt more than 15 miles away in Plymouth, said seismologists at the British Geological Survey in Edinburgh.

John Lovell, a seismologist at the BGS, said around 30 earthquakes measuring between 2 and 3 on the Richter scale were recorded in the UK every year. "This quake is not unusual. We have between 25 and 30 quakes of this size recorded in the UK every year and we have between 200 and 300 quakes of various sizes recorded. With this quake, people have been describing thunder claps and explosions, houses shaking, and objects falling, which is common."

The largest earthquake to hit the UK in recent years rocked North Wales in 1984 and measured 5.4 on the Richter scale.

Fall in demand for university places

Applications for university are running nearly 11 per cent behind the total for the same time last year, according to the latest official figures.

The news raised speculation that the Government's decision to charge tuition fees of £1,000 a year from next autumn may be putting off some potential applicants.

Part of the explanation for the fall may be the extra 23,000 people who entered university this term, some of whom might have waited until next year if tuition fees had not been introduced.

For three of the last four years, applications at this stage have been well ahead of this year's figure of 39,369, released by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). Last year they were 44,200.

The first deadline for applications – for those applying to Oxford – was yesterday but the total also includes people applying for medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine and some students who apply early because they want to study popular subjects at popular universities. Around 22,000 people each year try for Oxbridge.

Final applications do not have to be in until 15 December but Brian Roper, vice-chancellor of the University of North London, said, said that the figures suggested that his forecast that there would be between 40,000 and 50,000 fewer applications because of fees might prove an underestimate.

"Bear in mind that those who have applied so far are the articulate, well-off middle-class. If there is a deterrent effect there is a pretty strong indication that it will work its way through."

Oxford and Cambridge said that they would not have final figures for several days but that there was no indication that their applications had fallen this year.

Professor Gillian Salter, vice-chancellor of Bournemouth University, said it was early days.

"In view of all the uncertainties, any potential student would wait until the last minute," she said.

Judith Judd
Education Editor



A 1931 photograph of the Queen, then Princess Elizabeth of York, aged 5, by Marcus Adams part of 'Presenting an Image' a show opening tomorrow at the Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace

Have-nots getting a bigger slice of the cake

The gap between rich and poor continues to grow, but not as quickly, Barrie Clement, Labour Editor, examines the latest figures.

A third of households in Britain have no one in employment, but the growth in the gap between rich and poor has begun to slow, according to official data released yesterday.

The gap between the "haves" and the "have nots" accelerated rapidly in the Thatcherite Eighties, but the growth has started to wane, the survey of Households Below Average Income found.

The proportion of "workless" houses however has rocketed from 10 per cent in 1979, when Margaret Thatcher became Prime Minister, to 33 per cent now. The proportion of families containing a full-time employee has declined since 1979 from nearly two-thirds to just under a half.

The survey, published by the Government Statistical Service, showed that more than a third of children now live in families without a full-time worker. In 1979, around 20 per cent of children lived in unemployed families, which moved up to 25 per cent by 1994-5.

Real incomes rose over the period since 1979 by 37 per cent, but those at the lower end had seen much slower growth. All was not lost for those who found themselves at the bottom of the heap, it

was found. People in the lowest 10 per cent of the earnings scale did not always stay there. Of those in the bottom group in 1994-5, 64 per cent had incomes estimated to be in a higher bracket four years later. The lifestyles of the overwhelming majority of pensioners and single parent families were found however to remain static. Generally, women and single-parent families were more likely than other groups in society to be found in the bottom 20 per cent of Britain's income distribution.

Harriet Harman, Secretary of State for Social Security, said the survey justified the Government's focus on single parents as the poorest pensioners. She pointed out that 55 per cent of the adults in the bottom fifth were women.

Ms Harman added: "The Government's new Social Exclusion Unit has been set up to tackle the problems of those groups that have been left behind. We will tackle poverty by ensuring that all those who want to work can, and all those who cannot, get what they are entitled to."

A spokeswoman for the Department of Social Security said that "history matters" when it came to looking at people's future. "People with a history of low income are more likely to experience low income in the future." Unsurprisingly, adults with no formal qualifications were more likely to remain in the poorest section of society, while those educated to degree level were likely to move swiftly out of the bottom section.

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Surgeons 'were no good at heart operation' says doctor

A cardiac specialist explained yesterday how he desperately tried to prevent a heart operation in which a baby died – because he believed that surgeons at his hospital were "no good at it".

Professor Gianni Angelini told a disciplinary hearing of the General Medical Council that he had spent more than a year before the 1995 operation trying to raise the alarm over an "unacceptable" death rate among babies undergoing "switch" heart surgery to correct a back-to-front heart at the Bristol Royal Infirmary.

Heart surgeons James Wisheart and Janardan Dhasmana are appearing before the GMC's professional conduct committee on allegations that they continued to perform operations at Bristol although they knew that at least twice as many babies died in their care than at other hospitals.

It is alleged that they went ahead with operations which led to the deaths of 29 children between 1988 and 1995, and lost four others brain dead.

Dr John Roylance, former chief executive of the United Bristol Healthcare Trust, is accused of allowing the two surgeons to continue operating. All three men deny charges of serious professional misconduct.

Professor Angelini told the hearing that he was first alerted to problems with the switch operations in autumn 1993, when he received data showing an alarmingly high death rate. "My view was that we were no good at these operations, end of story," he said.

Professor Angelini said he begged Dr Roylance and Mr Wisheart not to allow an operation on 18-month-old Joshua Loveday to go ahead. He was told it had been decided the operation should go ahead. Joshua died on the operating table later that day.

Trimble letter bomb defused

A letter bomb sent to Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble yesterday was defused by the army.

The package arrived in the morning post at his constituency office in Lurgan, Co Armagh, said the RUC. The device was "crude but capable of exploding", said a spokesman.

A number of shops and businesses close to the Queen Street constituency office were evacuated while army bomb disposal experts made the device safe. It was the latest in a series of similar devices sent to leading Ulster politicians.

Last week another was defused after being sent to another Ulster Unionist MP, Jeffrey Donaldson, at his office at the Lisburn Council headquarters in Hillsborough, Co Down.

Similar devices have been made safe after being delivered to UK Unionist leader Robert McCartney, MP at both his Bangor, constituency office and his office in Belfast. No organisation has claimed responsibility for any of the attacks.

Award for 'Independent' writer

Dorothy Walker, a contributor to *The Independent*, has been named the 1997 BT Newspaper Technology Journalist of the Year. Ms Walker received her £1,000 award for an article written for *The Independent's* Network+ supplement about a specialist school that uses the Internet to help children with cerebral palsy improve their communications skills.

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Fears of Labour purge as spin doctors quit Whitehall

John Major's former press secretary, Jonathan Haslam, yesterday became the seventh senior Whitehall press officer to resign or move post. Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent, reports on why a third of Government information chiefs are packing their bags.

Jonathan Haslam was doing his own "spin-doctoring" yesterday, handing out press releases to journalists at Westminster announcing that he was resigning as head of information at the Department of Education and Employment.

Mr Haslam, 45, who survived the flak directed at Downing Street for five years under John Major, is the seventh senior Government information officer to leave since the 1 May general election.

The departure of a third of Government information chiefs

heightened suspicions that a Whitehall cull is being carried out by Mr Haslam's successor at No 10, Alastair Campbell. Tony Blair's chief press secretary, and Peter Mandelson, the minister without portfolio.

Mr Haslam, who is to become director of corporate affairs at the London Metal Exchange, denied he was being pushed. "I have had a fantastic job opportunity put before me and an offer which allows me to develop my career. I have been very lucky in that I have worked in eight government departments, travelled the world and I did the best job in town."

"I had an extremely good job in DfEE and extremely warm relationship with David Blunkett [Secretary of State]," Mr Haslam said he remained loyal to Mr Major but had never been asked about his politics, or been asked to carry out a political role within the Government since Labour came to power.

His departure follows six other information chiefs who are leaving, seeking early retirement or are being redeployed. They are: Jill Rutter (Treasury); Andy Wood

(Northern Ireland), Gill Sammel (Defence), Steve Reardon (Social Security), Liz Drummond (Scotland) and Jean Caines (Trade and Industry). The moves have sparked reports of personality clashes with ministers, and rows over the handling of "bad news" or government announcements.

It coincided yesterday with a union meeting of 47 middle-ranking Whitehall press officers who aired grievances about low morale and fears about the "politicisation" of the civil service.

Bill Brett, general secretary of the Institute of Professionals, Managers and Specialists will next week tell Mr Campbell and senior officials the civil servants want to put a stop to "being rubbish" and "slagged off" by ministers' special advisers, who have more leeway to act as "spin doctors". He said one special adviser was reported to have described a press officer as "easy meat".

The concern has arisen over a drive by Mr Campbell and Mr Mandelson to overhaul and modernise the Government information machine to match the slick operation Labour

ran while in Opposition.

The civil servants privately admitted that they were in need of being updated. Mr Brett said: "The view of the members was that it is a Rolls-Royce service - just maybe a clapped out Rolls-Royce. That is because it has been considerably downsized in the past decade."

But it has also raised anxiety that they are in danger of crossing the grey line between providing factual information as civil servants and defending the Government as party "spin doctors".

Mr Mandelson last week wrote to Mr Brett giving an assurance that reports of civil service "politicisation" were "groundless".

Mr Brett said after the meeting that the civil servants were ready to "raise their game", as Mr Campbell had described it, by becoming more pro-active but they would be seeking more equipment, such as pagers and home fax machines, and more investment to increase recruitment. Some press officers are also ready to serve in policy divisions to improve their presentational skills.



Before the fall: John Major with Jonathan Haslam while he was the press secretary at Downing Street

Blair moves to curb election spending

A curb on parties' election spending is expected to come from an inquiry into political funding, it was confirmed yesterday. Anthony Bevis, Political Editor, looks at a significant initiative.

THE INDEPENDENT
Labour bans election spending spree

How The Independent broke the news of Labour's plans last month

A ban on American funding for Sinn Féin: the identification of £5,000-plus donors to parties; less reliance of Labour on the trade unions; and the elimination of misleading party labels, such as Liberal Democrat, could all flow from concerted government action to clean up the "sleaze" that surrounds party funding.

The Independent reported exclusively last month that the Government had decided to curb the millions the parties currently spend - without restriction - during national elections.

Announcing yesterday that Sir Patrick Neill QC would take over from Lord Nolan as chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, and that the committee would now examine the funding of parties, Tony Blair said that the new chairman could "look at all the aspects of the way that political parties are funded, the way their campaigns are run".

He added: "What is tremendously important is not just to clean up the standards in Parliament, to make sure there's proper openness and honesty in the way that Members of Parliament conduct their business, but also that political campaigns and

the way that parties are funded have the same openness and transparency."

Asked specifically about a cap on election funding, a senior minister said: "That issue is being looked at."

Sir Patrick, 71, a former Warden of All Souls College, Oxford, is to be made a life peer, said: "One possible aspect we're looking at is overall expenditure by the parties. There's a limit on what candidates can spend, but no limit on what the parties can spend at an election time, and that strike most observers as somewhat odd."

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, also said yesterday that he is to introduce a Bill, as promised in the May manifesto, to require all parties to declare the source of all donations above £5,000, along with a ban on all foreign donations to political parties.

The early legislation will also provide for the registration of political parties, required for the introduction of proportional representation in

European elections in June 1999. That proposal will block candidates standing under misleading or deliberately confusing labels, such as New Labour or Liberal Democrat.

Although the reference to Sir Patrick's committee does not preclude state funding for parties, it is thought that Mr Blair is against it, over and above the existing system of funding for party work in Parliament.

However, if a cap is to be imposed on election campaign spending, that might allow Labour to fund its political work from individual subscriptions and donations, without the need to rely so heavily on its union "paymasters".

In the run-up to the last election, it is believed the Tories spent £20m, compared with Labour's £13m and the Liberal Democrats' £3m. Ministers believe that a reasonable limit of between £5m and £10m would be more sensible and much more democratic.

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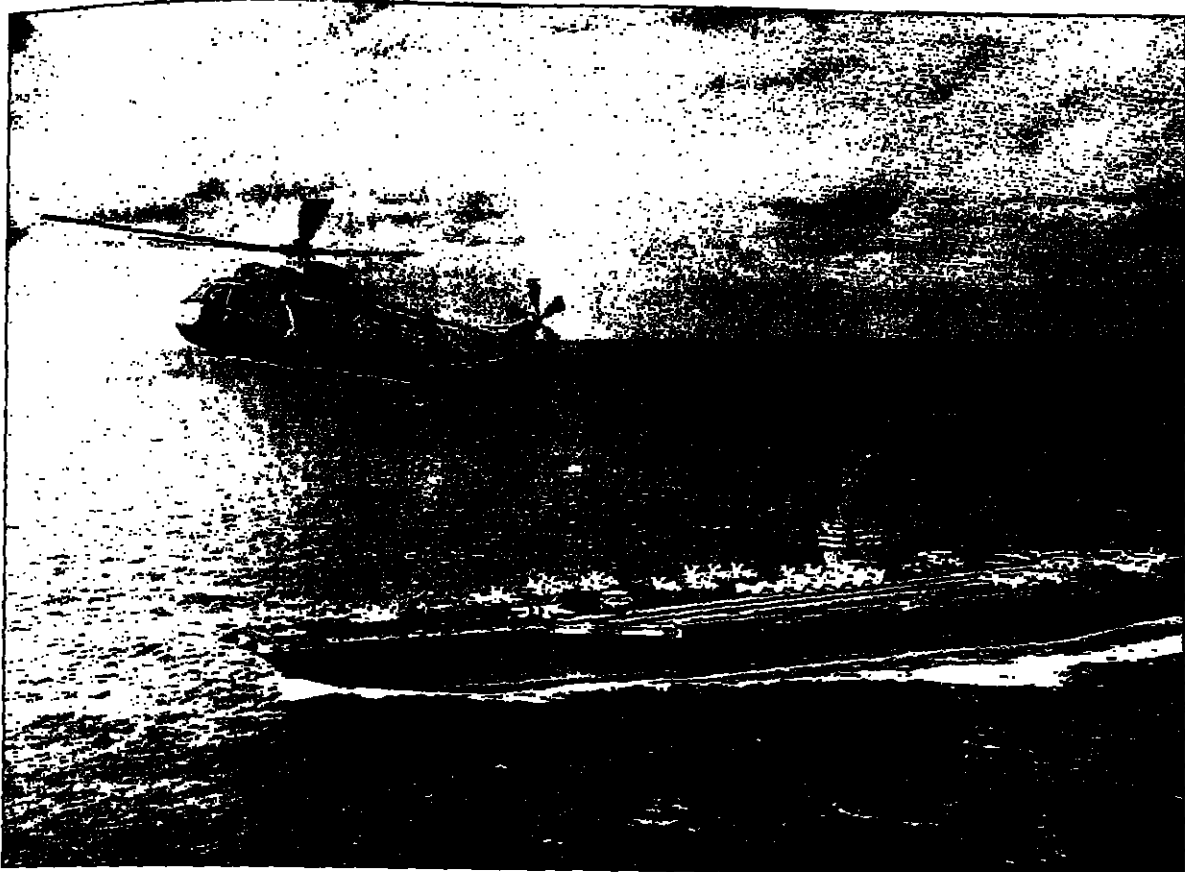


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12/FLASHPOINTS



The USS Nimitz arrived in the Gulf 24 hours after Iran began its annual manoeuvres. It is fresh defiance by Saddam Hussein, rather than Iran's actions, which worries the Allies. Photograph: Rex Features



Greece claims Turkey buzzed minister's jet

Greece and Turkey were back in angry confrontation last night after the Greek Defence Minister claimed that his plane was buzzed yesterday by Turkish jets over the Aegean, this time as he was returning from joint military exercises in Cyprus.

According to the Athens Defence Ministry, the C-130 transport plane carrying Akis Tsochatzopoulos was harassed by four Turkish F-16s in Greek airspace before being seen off by eight Greek fighters. Ankara denied any violation, but the minister called Turkey "an international troublemaker," that was reverting to the ways of the Cold War.

Whichever version is correct, the flare-up most emphatically signifies the end of a summer thaw in relations between the eternally feuding NATO partners. It also douses a short-lived burst of optimism that a solution might be found to the 23-year-old Cyprus crisis, that twice in the past decade has helped bring Greece and Turkey close to war.

Once again, both sides are conducting joint military exercises with their client portions of Cyprus, and yesterday Turkey said it would no longer honour a US proposal for a ban on military flights over the island, after this week's joint Greek/Cypriot manoeuvres attended by Mr Tsochatzopoulos.

On top of its intractable dispute with Greece over territorial waters in the Aegean, Turkey is bitter at the decision of the European Union to include the Greek-populated Republic of Cyprus in the six countries selected for the next round of enlargement talks, starting in January 1998 - while deferring negotiations over its own entry into the EU.

A scheduled Balkan summit in Crete in November offers an opportunity to repair some of the damage. But no plans have been made for the two prime ministers to hold a separate meeting. Rupert Cornwell

Saddam raises the temperature in the Gulf

A combination of fresh clashes in Kurdish northern Iraq, large-scale Iranian naval exercises and the hasty arrival of the US aircraft carrier Nimitz has sharply increased tensions in the Gulf. However, the root cause of the latest trouble, as Rupert Cornwell explains, is more bad behaviour by Saddam Hussein.

A mood of confrontation in the Gulf has been steadily increasing since Sunday, when the USS Nimitz with 80 warplanes aboard, arrived just 24 hours after Iran had begun its annual manoeuvres, code-named Pirouz (Victory).

In response, Tehran declared it would "react decisively" to any aggressive action by the US fleet, and yesterday denounced

both Britain and America for spying on its war games, during which it claims to have tested successfully a new unpiloted stealth aircraft. Singled out for special mention was the British destroyer Nottingham, accused of sailing "within shooting distance" of Iranian warships, before heeding a warning to move away at once.

In London and Washington, officials were playing down the affair. The Ministry of Defence last night did confirm the Nottingham had been "in the vicinity" of Iranian vessels on Tuesday, but outside the 12-mile territorial limit. "We believe no incident took place," a spokesman said, and Pentagon officials were similarly dismissive.

In fact, the current concerns of the Allies is not so much the ultimate nightmare of a move by Tehran to close the Straits of Hormuz and thus choke off the West's vital oil pipeline, as fresh defiance by Saddam Hussein. Once again, the Iraqi dictator is out to exploit any pretexts to

break the strategic strait-jacket of the two no-fly-zones that effectively confine his air force to the middle third of his country.

On 29 September came the latest opportunity: cross-border attacks by Iranian government planes against bases of the Iranian Mujahedin opposition, which is actively supported by Baghdad. In response to this violation of the southern no-fly-zone, Saddam committed one of his own by scrambling Iraqi fighters to chase off the intruders.

But, British officials noted last night, this was just one of a string of recent infringements - others apparently some 400 miles to the north, where Kurdish factions are battling for control of Kurdish regions of Iraq. Though Turkey yesterday denied any involvement, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan accused Ankara of twice bombing PUK-controlled territory, in support of the rival Kurdistan Democratic Party. The hostilities signalled the end of a UN-

brokered ceasefire that had held for the previous 12 months, designed in part to prevent Saddam exploiting differences between the factions to reassert his influence in the Kurdish segment of his country.

Almost certainly the despatch of the Nimitz - which has not been accused by Iran of snooping on its exercises - is designed to send a clear message to Saddam to toe the line. "If these violations continue, he should be aware the coalition will strike back," a Western diplomat said last night.

No less significantly, the Iraqi provocations come at a well tried moment. As he has done in the past, Saddam may be trying to deflect attention from the latest report of the UN special commission that theoretically enforces the destruction by Iraq of its chemical and biological weapons, and equipment that could be used to build nuclear bombs. Once again, Baghdad is not complying, meaning that UN sanctions against Iraq will continue.

If he stays true to form, Saddam will back down rather than invite an allied reprisal. But in a region that is always unpredictable, the Iranian dimension adds a further risk.

Despite some signs that Washington is seeking to improve relations with the new - and conceivably more conciliatory - government in Tehran, Iran is still deemed a "rogue state" and US policy remains the "dual containment" of both Iraq and Iran. Nor does fierce criticism of the recent Franco-Russian gas deal with Iran suggest any softening of the Clinton administration's stance.

The proximity of US warships and Iranian planes in the Gulf can prove a volatile and tragic combination, as on July 1988 when the US cruiser Vincennes mistakenly shot down an Iranian civilian jet, killing all 290 people aboard. Five months later, possibly in reprisal, came the bombing of PanAm flight 103 over Lockerbie.

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Fury erupts over lost Montserrat warning



No safe haven: Emmanuel Ryan, 2, looking into the darkened skies above Olveston from his mother's arms as the Soufrière Hills volcano erupts on Montserrat Photograph: AP

Scientists warned the British government 10 years ago that Montserrat's volcano was still active and would erupt again. Their predictions were ignored. The island's people were never told that they were living in a potential disaster zone, Fran Abrams writes, and the burial of the report may have cost UK taxpayers tens of millions of pounds.

The opening sentence of the report handed to the governor of Montserrat and to the island's government in 1987 was blunt.

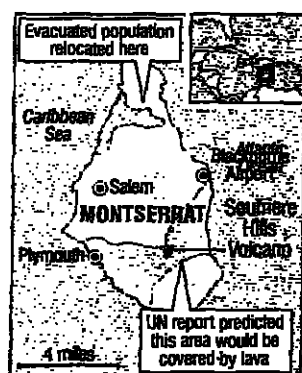
"Soufrière Hills volcano is active and will erupt again. It is a potential threat to many of the people that live in southern Montserrat," it read.

The report, while stressing that the eruption could be a long time coming, suggested that important public utilities should be moved out of the capital, Plymouth, which would be extremely vulnerable when it did.

Two years later, the island was devastated by Hurricane Hugo. The governments of Britain and of Montserrat, which is a British dependency,

were presented with an opportunity to address the problem. Instead, they spent almost £20m rebuilding the island's main hospital, government headquarters, schools and head-quarters where they had been before.

This week, Baroness Symons promised to try to find out what happened to the United Nations-sponsored report by Professor Geoffrey Wadge of the University of Reading, and Michael Isaacs of the Seismic Research Unit in Trinidad. A Foreign Office spokesman suggested yesterday that the report would routinely have been passed on to officials in London, although he added that this



would have been the governor's decision. Christopher Turner, the then governor of Montserrat, could not be contacted for comment.

The co-ordinator of the Montserrat Action Committee, MAC '89, Janice Panton, said yesterday that it should have been publicised.

"I grew up on the island with the view that the volcano was dormant. It had been dormant for 400 years. If you are living with an active volcano you should know."

"It should have been given to the people who were building houses there. Then if it had been dismissed at least you could say it was dismissed with knowledge," she said.

Jenny Tonge, the Liberal Democrat MP for Richmond Park, read about the report in a Christian Aid leaflet produced last year. When she asked the House of Commons library for a copy, she found that it did not have one.

"What the hell had been going on that allowed tens of millions of pounds to be spent in an area that was known to be unsafe. The last government need to be called to give evidence to find out why that money was wasted," she said.

Britain gave £3m for essential repairs immediately after Hurricane Hugo and followed it up in 1991 with a further £16.8m.

The money was used to rebuild and expand the Glendon Hospital near Plymouth, to repair schools and public buildings, and to provide a safe water supply. Plymouth is now uninhabitable, along with the rebuilt hospital which had never fully opened.

Since 1995 Britain has committed itself to spending £45.8m on emergency aid to the island.

David Taylor, who was governor between 1990 and 1993, oversaw much of the post-

hurricane rebuilding. He said he had never heard of the report until he read Christian Aid's leaflet in 1996. "I haven't the slightest idea what became of it. It's possible that it was in the governor's office and was blown away during the hurricane. A lot of the governor's files disappeared into the sea," he said.

Mr Taylor was unsure whether things would have been different if the report had been published. "It's very difficult to judge - it is both hypothetical and with hindsight," he said.

Baroness Chalker, a Foreign Office minister, was deputy foreign secretary from 1987 until 1989 and minister for overseas aid from 1989 until May this year. Although she was not responsible for Montserrat in 1987, she dealt with the aftermath of the hurricane and the rebuilding programme. She said she had never been shown the Wadge and Isaacs report. If she had, it would have been acted on. "The governor should have sent it to the Foreign Office and it should have been brought to the attention of whoever was the Caribbean minister in those days," she said.

"We were absolutely determined to respond to the scientific evidence. There was no scientific evidence which wasn't fully accepted. I have no knowledge of this report."

Professor Wadge was not anxious to apportion blame for the effective disappearance of his report. "The main reaction at the time was polite: 'Yes, this is very interesting but we notice there hasn't been an eruption for hundreds of years.'"

"It's an obvious way of thinking and it's unfortunate that it has caught them out in this way," he said.

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DAILY POEM

Nunc Dimittis

by Edwin Brock

In his sleep the cows
drift through the old streets
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A voice is explaining itself
to someone who does not
need an explanation or
who has died without it.

He has justified every failure
by believing that
anything here can be
used to make a shelter.

He has chosen eight discs.
The seabirds cry through
the old streets. "Would
you be able to look after

yourself, catch fish or
build a boat?" Someone is
thanking him over and over
again. Over and over.

This poem completes our selection from the work of Edwin Brock, who died last month. His *Five Ways to Kill a Man: new and selected poetry* (£7.95) is published by Enitharmon Press at 36 St George's Avenue, London N7 0HD.

Blair spins royal tour into success

The accident-prone royal tour of India took a further turn for the worse yesterday after Tony Blair urged colleagues to tell the "success stories of the visit". Anthony Bevins, Political Editor, reports on a storm in an Indian tea-cup.

The Prime Minister went out of his way to praise Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, during yesterday's Cabinet, for doing an excellent job during his visit, with the Queen, to the Indian subcontinent.

"The Prime Minister said that what was required now was a major effort of communication to explain more widely the thus-far unreported success

stories of the visit," a spokesman said.

Mr Cook promptly gave a series of interviews in which he said he had given no public statements on the delicate issue of Kashmir, and the cancellation of a toast due to have been given by the Queen in Madras yesterday was a "storm in a tea-cup".

But the media minefield was then abundantly illustrated with a report that Sir Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private secretary, had said in Madras: "The Queen is here on the advice of ministers in Britain. She does not go out on a limb."

The inference was promptly drawn that Sir Robert was passing the buck - and the blame - on to the Foreign Office, and that if the Queen was out on a limb, that was the fault of Mr Cook and his officials.

The Foreign Office was as

baffled by that as it was by the whole affair, particularly as Mr Cook and Sir Robert had spoken an hour earlier on the telephone.

A senior Foreign Office source said the warmth of the welcome for the Queen had been immense; trade orders had reflected the goodwill engendered by the visit, and the relationship between the two governments had never been stronger. Mr Cook said Inder Kumar Gujral, India's Prime Minister, had told the Queen political and economic relations have never been in better shape. "In a statement which he issued after a meeting with myself," Mr Cook added, "he described it as a friendly and a viable meeting. Our diplomatic ties are very strong, as indeed are our trade ties."

Prince Philip, meanwhile, in a speech given aboard the Roy-

al Navy frigate HMS Westminster docked in Bombay, asked businessmen of the two countries to do something that critics said were missing between the diplomats. "Though technology has transformed the world beyond recognition, there is still no substitute for personal interaction," he said. "It is sometimes surprising how many doors can be opened."

A senior Foreign Office source said the media had got the entire affair "out of focus" and had allowed "a molehill to obscure the mountain" of success. The source added that there was more trade and investment between the two countries than at any time in history, including the time of the Empire.

Mr Gujral will have an opportunity to put his own version when he visits Britain next week for a Commonwealth

Heads of Government meeting.

As for the source of the perceived diplomatic difficulties, Sir David Gore-Booth, British High Commissioner in India, said: "The Indian press is almost as licentious as our own..."

"I find some of the reaction more invented than real. The Indian press, like the British press, is always on the lookout for gaffes and bloopers." Sir David also denied a report in an Indian newspaper that Mr Cook had a blazing row with Mr Gujral.

A Palace official told reporters in Madras that any problems on the visit had been "flea bites" and "nit-picking".

However, Michael Howard, the shadow Foreign Secretary, said last night: "Never has a Foreign Secretary caused so much offence to so many people in such a short space of time."



The Duke of Edinburgh visiting Western Naval Command in Bombay. Later he addressed a business seminar on HMS Westminster Photograph: Savita Kirloskar/Reuters



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US army charges top soldier with sexual harassment

The former top enlisted man in the US army, Sergeant Major Gene McKinney, has been formally indicted on 20 charges of sexual harassment and is to appear at court martial in Virginia in January. Sgt Major McKinney, who is black, has denied all the accusations against him and his supporters have implied a racial motive in the allegations, noting that all his female accusers are white. The decision to bring charges followed a hearing in which six women, all former colleagues of Sgt Major McKinney and his junior in rank, claimed he had used his position to make sexual advances. Sgt Major McKinney, and his wife of 25 years, Wilhelmina, appeared together on a television talk-show to dismiss the allegations as without foundation.

Mary Dejevsky, Washington

Tajik leader's guards killed

Gunmen attacked the headquarters of Tajikistan's presidential guards in Dushanbe yesterday, killing 14 servicemen. More than 70 gunmen opened fire on the compound with automatic weapons and grenade launchers. The gunmen seized two guard posts, and then stormed a barracks, shooting five sleeping officers. More than 20 guards were injured in the ensuing battle, which raged for an hour-and-a-half. President Emomali Rakhmonov's hard-line government signed a peace deal in June with mainly fundamentalist Muslim opposition groups to end a civil war that broke out shortly after independence in 1991.

Swiss banks to reveal more

Swiss banks said yesterday they would publish a second list of dormant accounts containing 18 million Swiss francs (£8.8m), bringing the total found so far to about 78 million francs. Georg Krayer, chairman of the Swiss Bankers Association, said the money discovered in dormant accounts opened before the end of the Second World War was still significantly below the amounts Jewish groups allege Swiss banks are hiding. In addition to scouring their vaults Credit Suisse Group, Swiss Bank Corp (SBC) and Union Bank of Switzerland UBS have contributed 100 million Swiss francs to set up a fund for Holocaust victims.

Russia sees sharp rise in TB

About 2.2 million people are ill with tuberculosis in Russia and the disease is steadily spreading, a health official said yesterday. Last year alone, 24,700 people died of tuberculosis and 98,000 people were recorded as having contracted the disease. The main source of infection in Russia is its overcrowded, disease-ridden prisons, where the infection rate has skyrocketed. Overall, the number of TB cases has risen nearly 4 per cent in the past year.

Papon quizzed on Algerians' deaths

The trial of the Vichy official Maurice Papon for his role in the persecution of French Jews has taken an unexpected turn. As John Lichfield reports from Paris, Mr Papon has also been asked to explain the deaths of up to 300 Algerians in the city in 1961, when he was the police chief.

According to the official record, only two people died when a peaceful Algerian march was brutally suppressed by Paris police on 17 October 1961. But historians and Algerian organisations say at least 200 people, maybe as many as 300, were drowned, shot or clubbed to death by police.

On the witness stand, Maurice Papon, admitted that "15 to 20" Algerian bodies were taken from the River Seine; he is the first official involved to admit such a high death-toll. But Mr Papon went on to claim the victims were "dissidents" killed by another faction of the Algerian demonstrators. The claim was greeted in France with a mixture of disbelief and anger. The interior minister, Jean-Pierre Chevènement,

hinted he might allow police records to be opened in an attempt to clarify the mystery.

Mr Papon made his comments while answering questions on his conduct as a public official during the Vichy period and his high-flying career after 1945. He said the higher death tolls claimed by some for the Algerian march were "far-fetched".

Mr Papon, 87, is on trial for "complicity in crimes against humanity" for his part in the arrest and deportation of 1,500 Jews from the Bordeaux area in 1942-44. He told the court he had personally saved the lives of 139 Jews by striking them from the lists of those to be arrested. He rejected the prosecution's claim that he sought to advance his career by rounding up Jews as efficiently as possible.

He had, he said, "participated in the Nazi repression of the Jews with anguish." He had made "every effort to save as many members of the Jewish community as possible". He claimed he and his wife had "cried" at Christmas 1943, thinking of the Jews who had just departed (on his orders).

Startling as these claims were, they tended to undermine part of the case presented by Papon's own lawyers: that he was not aware that the Jews he rounded up would be sent to death camps.

Shell looks at the sun as energy source of future

The world's biggest oil company is taking a serious interest in green, renewable energy. Shell's surprise decision to invest hundreds of millions of pounds in solar power is probably a recognition that oil's days are numbered rather than just PR, says Environment Correspondent Nicholas Schoon.

By 2050, half the world's energy is going to come from renewable sources such as sunshine, wind, running water and green plants rather than from oil, gas, coal and nuclear, according to a scenario Shell is working to.

The Anglo-Dutch group said it would be investing £300m over the next five years in expanding its capacity to make solar cells and in growing trees to be burnt in electricity-generation power stations. It is a shift environmentalists have long been demanding.

Jim Dawson, president of the newly created Shell International Renewables, said no other company was investing as much. His aim is to win at least 10 per cent of the world market for solar or photovoltaic cells by 2005.

Shell had made its decision mainly because of how it expects the energy world to change over the next 50 years. "We have not reacted in a

knee-jerk way to environmental pressure, but we do listen to what the environmental groups and others say. We'd be stupid if we didn't."

The new strategy compares with that of the other UK-based oil giant, BP, which has taken an earlier and larger, interest in photovoltaics. BP already has 10 per cent of the market, currently worth over £600m a year and growing at some 14 per cent every 12 months.

Growing trees to burn them in power stations may seem a strange way of providing green, renewable energy. But if the trees chopped down are replaced by young, growing trees in plantations it is. These growing trees absorb carbon dioxide, the main global warming gas, which is produced when coal, oil, gas and also wood are burnt.

If wood replaces fossil fuels in power stations, and new wood is constantly being grown to replace it, then no extra carbon dioxide is released into the air.

Shell already has plantations of fast growing trees in South America, Africa and New Zealand, covering an area larger than Greater London. It promises that it will not take wood from virgin forests and where there are stands of natural trees near or among its plantations these will be protected.

Shell believes the big market for renewables is in rural areas of developing countries where many homes and businesses are not on the electricity grid. It envisages buildings

covered with photovoltaic cells, and small power stations using locally grown wood. It plans to build several in the next few years.

Yesterday, Greenpeace UK welcomed the strategy. "It is significant that they are trying to catch up with BP, but we won't be able to judge how serious they are for several years," said solar campaigner Marcus Rand.

"Hopefully 1997 will come to be seen as a turning point," he said.

In terms of Shell's total investment each year, which goes mostly into oil and gas exploration and oil products like plastics and chemicals, the new money for renewables is tiny - about one per cent.

But the planned investment in its new division is only a little less than what has been invested each year in Britain through the 1990s by the entire private sector on installing renewable energy sources.

Rupert Fraser of the UK Renewable Generators Consortium, which represents this young industry, said: "I think Shell is a serious player. They're cautious people, and they wouldn't want to make a fuss about getting into renewables if they had to get out again a few years later."

Shell is also working on genetic engineering of trees, to make them more resistant to frost and easier to turn into paper, at its forestry research division in Kent. That will not please Greenpeace, which is strongly opposed to the new technology of switching genes between species.



Undersea menace: A striped dolphin caught in a drift net in the north-east Atlantic

Photograph: Greenpeace

Dismay at bid to end whaling ban

The Government was yesterday urged to resist "bullying tactics" by Japan and Norway when ministers meet next week to discuss a plan for the resumption of limited commercial whaling.

It was also urged by the RSPCA to drop its opposition to a ban on European drift nets and end the slaughter of thousands of whales and dolphins.

The proposal to allow a re-

sumption of whaling would mean "disaster" for the world's endangered whales if it gets the go-ahead at the International Whaling Commission meeting in Monaco, the London-based Environmental Investigation Agency warned.

Commercial killing of Minke whales has been banned since 1986 but both Japan and Norway still hunt

them, using a loophole in the rules which allows "scientific" quota catches.

The new plan, put forward by the Irish, would allow Japan and Norway to kill whales within 200 miles of their coastlines - but in return they would have to accept the establishment of a global sanctuary for whales and the closing of the legal loophole on scientific catches.

But environmentalists warn the vast majority of whales spend some time in coastal waters, so the plan could expose virtually the entire world population to hunting.

Dave Curry, of the EIA, said that the proposal belonged in "cloud cuckoo land", and added: "It bears no reality to what goes on in Tokyo fish markets where whale meat ends up for sale at £200 per kilo."

Threat to green space

The Government was yesterday under pressure to halt a local authority's "disastrous decision" to back the building of 10,000 new homes on Green Belt land.

Friends of the Earth challenged ministers to act after Hertfordshire County Council gave the go-ahead for a new settlement west of Stevenage.

The environmental group said the development will create an almost continuous urban sprawl between Stevenage and Hitchin.

But a spokesman for the Department of the Environment said it would not intervene until the council gave formal notice that it intended to adopt the modified plan.

The spokesman added: "The Government has recently re-affirmed its commitment to protecting the countryside including Green Belt in relation to out-of-town developments and is currently carefully considering responses to a Green Paper on household growth."

"In doing so, the Government is committed to make the best possible use of brownfield sites and urban areas to create jobs, re-generate communities and protect the countryside."

FoE said more than 4,000 people objected to the scheme at a public inquiry and the decision was made in the face of opposition from the Conservatives, the largest group on the council.

Simon Festing, FoE housing campaigner, said: "Labour has consistently said it would protect the countryside. Ministers must overturn this disastrous decision and review their housing policies to stop urban sprawl and allow house-builders to use derelict land in towns and cities."

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Glorious gallery threatens to eclipse its contents

The world swooned over the Guggenheim Museum's architecture, with its curved titanium plates burnished by the sun. A question remains whether the museum, which opens on Sunday, will work as a gallery.

Our correspondent in Madrid believes it will, as long as it continues to house the bold masterworks which the New York foundation shipped in for the inaugural exhibition.

Frank Gehry's spectacular building swirls around a central atrium, where light sloshes through glass and metal windows that leap like fish from the floor to the 165ft flower-petal ceiling. Claes Oldenburg's *Soft Shmaltz*, perched on a topmost balcony, sends creamy canvas feathers cascading down the central wall.

The galleries lunge from this hub in accordance with the Guggenheim director Thomas Krens's philosophy of a 21st-century museum: "We wanted to challenge the outdated, encyclopaedic notion of a mu-

BY ELIZABETH NASH

seum that leads you blindly through a labyrinth of individual examples of everything we know. That is not a post-modern, post-technological take on knowledge. Our 19 galleries are each chapters, or short stories, in an anthology of this century's visual culture," he said.

Here are Lichtensteins and Warhols that seem poster-sized. Walk through *Snake*, a Richard Serra installation of curved steel weighing 160 tons that sits quietly to the side of the room. It will take you several minutes. Then take a 100-yard stroll to where Oldenburg's fabulous scarlet *Knifeship* - a galleon-sized pean knife whose blades lift and protruding oars row majestically - looks set to roll out to sea.

"The visitors can always get their bearings," said Krens about these centrifugal rooms - some futuristic in shape, others with classical proportions. This was reassuring. Like Alice, I was beginning to feel I had obeyed the instruction "drink me" and would soon be unable to embrace a



The shock of the new: Visitors looking at works of art in the Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao, during a presentation to the press on Wednesday.

The Spanish King and Queen will open the museum, below, on Sunday. Police foiled a plan by Basque Eta terrorists to mount a rocket attack at the opening.

Photograph: Txema Fernandez/AP

PRIZE POSSESSIONS

Richard Serra: *Snake* 1994-96
Georges Braque: *Plano and Mandola* 1909-10, *Violin and Palette* 1909
Marc Chagall: *Paris Through the Window* 1913, *Green Violinist* 1923-24
Andy Warhol: *One hundred and fifty Multicoloured Marilyns* 1979
Robert Rauschenberg: *Barge* 1963
Picasso: *Mandolin and Guitar* 1924
Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen: *Knife Ship* 1985; Wood covered with vinyl, steel, aluminium and metal with blades vertical.
Roy Lichtenstein: *Preparedness* 1968, three panels
Anselm Kiefer: *Sun-ship* 1984-85
Vasily Kandinsky: *Blue Mountain* 1908-1909
Several *Circles* 1926
Damien Hirst: *Two Similar Forms in Endless Motion (Broken)* 1993.

mushroom.

Gehry remains unhappy about this 450ft main gallery, the one that from outside looks like a ship poking beneath the main motorway bridge entering the city. "I wanted to put walls in and make it three separate galleries but he [he pointed to Krens] wouldn't let me."

Krens insists this constitutes the building's great strength: "Much of the art of the last 40 years has been 'of scale'. It's our responsibility to respond and provide a context. No other museum could show these works as well as this building," he said this week in Bilbao.

The effect is thrilling, but the lesser

works are in danger of being overwhelmed by a building that certainly fulfils Gehry's aim: "It's very important to have a museum that makes an important statement and has a presence in your life. It's all experimental. We're not precious about this. We're trying things out."

The Guggenheim Foundation has pulled out the stops for the opening of its flagship in Europe. Eight Anselm Kiefers seem perfectly at home in their own gallery, whose walls curve upwards and sideways in all directions. Three-dimensional sunflower stalks and metal shards dart from the walls and the floor. Only the monochrome tones keep you from falling over.

Nine splendid Kandinskys - mercifully hung in conventional rooms - sweep from fauvism through cubism and expressionism to abstraction, complemented by Léger, Picasso, Braque, Miro and a clutch of German expressionists, with a nod to Surrealism (Max Ernst) by way of what an American critic dismissed as "two piddly Mondrian's". Damien Hirst, engaging and lively, has an upper gallery to himself.

Not all these marvels will remain. More than half the exhibits will change as the Guggenheim rotates its vast collection. This was the agreement between the Basque regional authorities, who paid £70m for the building, and the Guggen-

heim, which will supply 80 per cent of its contents.

Thomas Krens is confident that Picasso's masterpiece *Guernica* - withheld by Madrid's Reina Sofia Museum on account of its fragile state - will eventually be shown here.

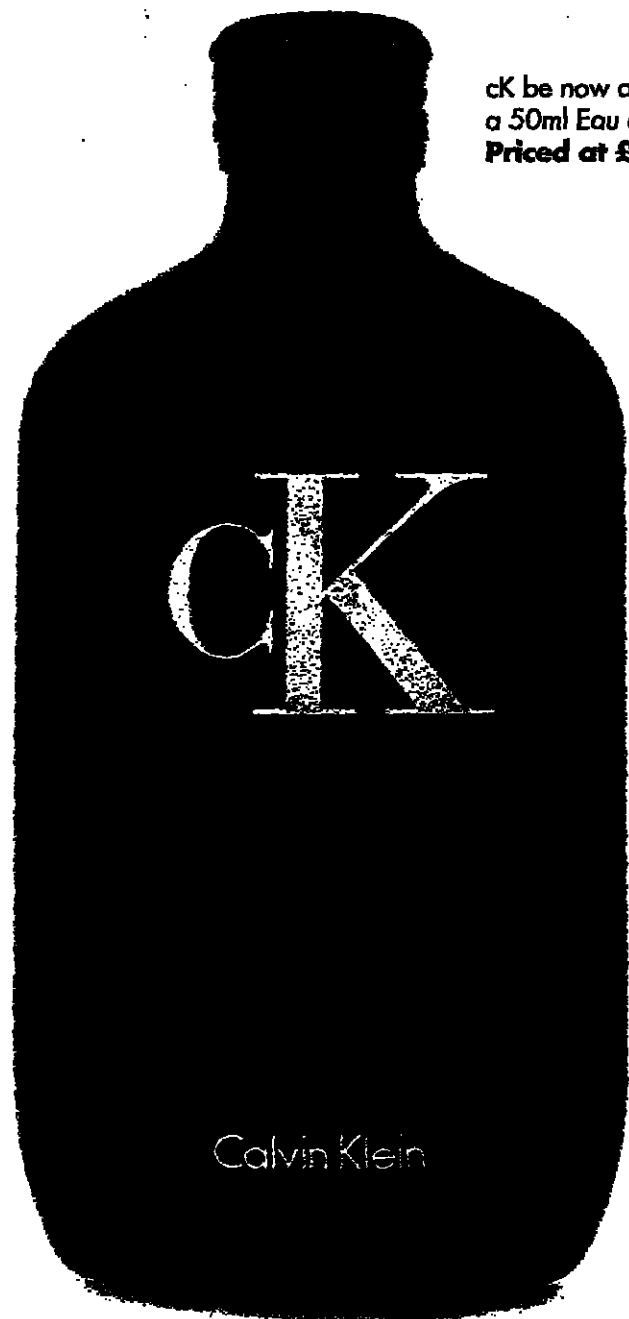
"I fully expect *Guernica* to come," he said. "The Basques have paid for it with their blood and suffering. We have designed a special truck to provide the safest movement of an artwork that has ever taken place - and we'll work with the Reina Sofia on installing it."

Jeff Koons' giant *Puppy* sculpture, studded with 70,000 poodles, dominates the

forecourt. But it was outflanked this week by a darker installation, of bouquets, candles and a black-draped Basque flag, marking the spot where Basque separatist Eta gunmen shot a policeman on Monday. The policeman prevented Eta from hiding 12 anti-tank missiles, which were pinned to explode at Saturday's opening by the King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain.

Security has been tightened and the cocktail receptions have been scaled down, but the authorities insist: "nothing will take us step back" to stop the public from visiting what is already a triumphant symbol of the city.

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But his agent claims he knew the latest book would be a success from the beginning. "I thought we were really, really on something big. It is very rare that you have a book that appeals to different nationalities with equal excitement," he said. The financial windfall came at an op-

On the strength of this, Tom Cruise paid £1m for a 10-page summary of his next book. The author was quoted as saying: "Now I've just got to start writing it."



They sighed in agreement after all, they too were liberals now. After the event, Dimbleby confessed that he had gone to the Waterstones book shop to warn them to expect a huge swell in customers. "I told them, be prepared. Michael Palin is due to arrive later!"

— Sam Taylor

The Publishers' Association says legal advice suggests such sales may breach copyright, if a UK edition of the same title was also available. It has already cracked down on a number of UK-based on-line booksellers panning to sell discounted US editions over the Net.

"It's a global market and ... booksellers might not want to be competing on-line, but

Many bookstores have recently set up their own internet shopping site, including Book Data, which can dispatch books from Dillons, Hammicks or the PC Bookshop. There are also a number of online-only stores such as Bookpages and the Internet Bookshop.

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Overworked women: do they quit – or just quit moaning?

High-flying career and a fulfilling personal life? It can't be done, says Elizabeth Perle McKenna, and women shouldn't even be trying. We gave her new book to 20-something Clare Garner and, opposite, working mother Diane Coyle. Here is their response.

A new generation of young women takes for granted that they can succeed in a man's world, on men's terms, and weather with ease all the attendant pressure, politics and stress. There may be a price to pay in their personal lives, but it's worth paying in the brave, new, downsized world.

However, according to an older and therefore wiser American woman, who woke up and smelt the coffee at 40, it doesn't have to be this way. What's more, there is trouble ahead for any woman who builds her identity solely around her work. After the women's movement, she says, comes a second battle: the battle for work to take its due place along all the other important aspects of our lives.

Elizabeth Perle McKenna, a former publishing executive, describes her book *When Work Doesn't Work Anymore*, published here this week, as a "wake-up call" to all women who feel there is an increasingly adversarial relationship between the professional and the personal. We've got the solutions, she says. We just don't dare implement them.

She argues that women are imprisoned by the very thing they thought would set them free. They may have parity, but it's making them miserable. The solution, she says, is to fight for a feminised workplace. But this battle is harder to win than the original one for equality. "The women's movement was founded on anger," she explains. "It is very hard to do this second movement because it is founded on depression."

To any 20-something woman who is lucky enough to have landed a job in her chosen career all this may come as a bit of a shock. Success equals a good job and who they are is, to a large extent, defined by what they do. But are they being honest? On the surface, work gives self-esteem and fi-

nancial independence, but, secretly, some women are already feeling a bit jaundiced. They know that these days a job is not for life and that no amount of sacrifices will guarantee promotion or, more important, deep personal happiness. They want to work, but not at the expense of everything else.

Take one friend of mine, Mary, a 30-year-old marketing executive. On hearing about Miss McKenna's book she said wistfully: "Is she saying we should give up? I think we should." Hang on a minute. This from a woman who is about to take up the offer of a bigger and better job, complete with company BMW. Surely some mistake?

"It's five days to two days," she explained. "That's the wrong balance. You spend the majority of your life working and, even if it's enjoyable, it's stressful. I could take a four-day week in my present firm, but pride stops me. It's convention that's forcing me on to make that next step." She is, according to McKenna, a prime example of the legions of women who are "outwardly successful and inwardly wanting".

But what should they do? Are they on course for a full-scale collapse at 40? Downshifting before 30 – before they've even started a family – sounds absurd. McKenna would say that if they are to avoid feeling washed up, bitter and betrayed 10 years down the line, eating too much, drinking too much, weighed down with exhaustion and depression, they must, apparently, heed her story.

She should know. For 20 years she followed a one-track path. Her career ("as good as my father's") was "sacred ground and synonymous with who I was". Working met her "financial, emotional, intellectual and self-esteem needs".

"Through my twenties I concentrated on work. I worked at work, flirted at work. Occasionally, I dated at work. I loved work and felt a puffed-up pride at having to spend a Saturday at the office; it made me important." Her account may sound a bit extreme, but she is the product of American corporate culture which is probably more demanding and work-obsessed than the British equivalent.

Nevertheless, we all know people whose work is their life and they are proud of the fact.



Professional jugglers: 20-something Clare Garner, left, and 30-something Diane Coyle

Photograph: David Rose

In her early thirties, McKenna's road began to narrow. Her self-esteem was "in the toilet from trying to be everything to everyone and ending up being nothing to myself". She had "indigestion in my soul" and was experiencing "a subtle but consistent atrophy" of the importance of other aspects of her life. By her late thirties, she had a son and her life was becoming increasingly unsatisfactory. She found herself faced with an all-or-nothing choice between "meaningful work" or "some 1950s home fantasy". She resented the choice, "but there it was". When she finally decided to walk out of the office door, she immediately felt a "non-person", her whole identity collapsed and in the first week without a paycheck she became "worthless instantly". Not a pretty prospect.

Brenda Barnes, who recently resigned from her job as president and chief executive of Pepsi-Cola's North American operation to spend more time

with her family, is an extreme example, but an example nevertheless of "the system that creates these idiotic choices", says Miss McKenna. Sometimes only a grave illness stops us in our tracks, sometimes the way we work can be "fatal".

Her answer is to change the present rules for success. ie Rule 1: Work comes first, above all personal or family concerns. Rule 1a: If you're a man you can break rule 1 and be a great guy; if you're a woman and you break rule 1, you're not serious about your future. Rule 2: Long hours are a requirement... She advocates four-day weeks so that we can live more balanced lives, citing research which shows that most people can cut 20 per cent of their salary and maintain their lifestyles. But she rejects the term "downshifting", implying as it does a diminution and suggests that we must learn not to put "all our eggs in one briefcase".

She points out, quite rightly, that one of the most potent barriers to leaving a career

path, even for a year or two, is the fear of not being able to return. Women fear they will end up taking what Miss McKenna calls "Mommy Track" jobs – repetitive, lower-status work – which in turn cause stress.

So how convincing is she? A porous work environment in which we could come and go, be enriched, rich and fulfilled at any one time sounds wonderful. But, sadly to me and most of my contemporaries, the idea of putting up our hands and demanding a four-day week or refusing to work long hours would be tantamount to career suicide. If we decide to take a few years out, can we seriously expect to hop back on the same rung of the ladder?

I wish your were right, Miss McKenna, but I fear you may be leading us down the Mommy Track before we are even Mommies.

'When Work Doesn't Work Anymore' by Elizabeth Perle McKenna is published by Simon & Schuster this week. £14.99.



Elizabeth Perle McKenna, author of the 'wake-up call' to America's women

Young women are being sold a pup by Elizabeth Perle McKenna and similar backlash authors, writes Diane Coyle. And it is such a seductive argument to put to people who are working incredibly hard compared to 20-somethings a decade ago, when I was in the early stages of my career.

It goes as follows: you are an ambitious professional woman who wants to get to the top in your chosen career. You will accomplish this but at the expense of your personal life and, especially, having a family. In a decade's time, when your biological clock is winding down, you'll regret your choices. Escape from this unfair dilemma by opting out of the rat race on your own terms now!

Enough of this is true to make it seem a valid argument. A lot of professional jobs make unacceptable demands on family life (for both women and men). A lot of 30-somethings (both female and male) are stressed and unhappy. Men are expected to do it all, too, these days, work 10 hours and then go home and change nappies.

It is true to say that the demands of work have increased. Career-track jobs not only demand long hours in the office, they follow their victims everywhere, all the time, thanks to pagers and mobile phones.

The logic fails, though, in claiming that there are only two choices, and that only women have to make them. The world of work is imperfect, but it is not an either/or place. You do not have to either be a brilliant success in your career or stay at home with the kids, your self-esteem draining away. And because the world is a subtler place than that, there is no need to demand utopian change in the workplace.

Now, I'm no Nicola Horlick, running my large household like a small business and doing a high-powered City job on the side. But I do have a demanding job that I love and a husband and son whom I also love. When my son was a baby, I dropped off the career track for three years to work from home. Then I scrambled back on.

This is nothing special. Lots and lots of mothers work. We "career women" have to make sacrifices. You miss some of those incredibly rewarding moments in a child's development. You also miss some

incredibly important meetings at the office. Does this mean it isn't worth trying to find a compromise in the imperfect world that we face? Absolutely not.

Obviously, this is not necessarily easy. You need luck if you have children who are sick or you need to sleep 12 hours a night, it will become much harder. You need to be prepared to put up with imperfections and with being slightly shambolic in all areas of your life. You have to work hard and be organised. You have to give up things like nightclubbing, or leisurely days shopping or catching the latest movies. What I miss most of all is time to myself, because there are constant demands from both home and work.

I don't think any woman or man who works would oppose changes that made the workplace less rigid and the choices therefore less difficult. This will happen, slowly. For one thing, the public culture is changing the further behind we leave the harsh Thatcher era.

More important, there is a shortage of young people. Our population is ageing. In the latest year for which figures are available, the number of 16 to 25 year olds in Britain fell by 78,000, and the number of 35 to 39 year olds has fallen by 180,000 over three years. Before long, employers will be forced to make work more attractive to those starting out in their career.

But altering working patterns would not prove a panacea. When there are choices, there is bound to be a need for compromise. How much better to have the choice of several ways to be able to fill your time, and to have a stab at a top-flight career even if it presents you with some difficult dilemmas, than not to have the option at all.

Ms McKenna says we need to redefine success, by equating it with an all-around, high-flying career that has been designed to suit men. She ignores the old feminist insight that it has been designed to suit men because it is success. We women should still want it. Still, I wish Ms McKenna well in her personal effort to adopt a lower profile and spend more time with her family.

Diane Coyle is economics editor of 'The Independent'

Down with homophobia, up with zips: meet the new, improved gay man



JOHN LYTTLE

If the jig is up for the nutters, then the intricate minutiae may also be over for all the outsiders addicted the role of witty, artistic and emotionally sensitive sexual outlaw...

Shall we wrap our lips around the New, Improved Homosexual? The discussion is overdue. True, there have been sightings, rare as Bigfoot but not as attractive, since the Stonewall riots 28 years ago. But each glimpse has been shrugged off, yea, even by gay politicians – especially by gay politicians; well, their job is to demand change, not dream the individual who might come after change. Now here we are at the beginning of the end of something and instead of rejoicing, I instead hear my people clutch their beads and cry out, "What's to become of us?"

Let me explain. Every day of the last couple of weeks seemed to bring a new advance for those who think pink. So many advances that Jeremy Paxman detected a... breakthrough. First there was Lisa Grant receiving the go-ahead from the European Court Of Justice to proceed with her discrimination case against South West Trains for not affording her girlfriend equal status with heterosexual partners. Then the European Court of Human Rights deemed the UK's unequal age of consent wrong, prompting the promise of an early parliamentary vote. Meanwhile, William Hague wrote to Tory gay group

Torche, thanked them for their activism, best wishes, big kisses on the bottom. Michael Portillo, or a pod version of same, stood before Conservatives and told them that other people's sex lives did not require judgment. Michael Howard repeated the message. You waited for him to choke – well, wished – but no. Neither did Peregrine Worsthorne. Asked about immigration rules being, ahem, bent so gay men could bring totty into the country, Perry languidly waved gay marriage through and noted that times have changed, ie that nutters had better recognise the jig is up.

What else could explain the *Daily Mail* editorial throwing in the towel? Throwing down the gauntlet is more the *Mail* thing, but they had read the runes: the queers are coming. And coming. And coming.

Anyhow, as Victor Meldrew and EMF might shout, unbelievable. Not that there isn't some distance to travel. Pension, inheritance and adoption issues continue to fester and the Hate Crimes Bill doesn't mention queer bashing. Still, shouldn't the kicked around and put upon be just a bit overjoyed? But I see no parties, no club nights on the theme of embracing the glorious future. Instead I fear the conse-

quences of identity crisis and what the burden of responsibility might do to even the most muscular back. For if the jig is up for the nutters, then the intricate minutiae may also be over for all the outsiders who enjoyed playing the somewhat addictive role of the witty, fashionable, artistic and emotionally sensitive sexual outlaw: tragic heroes of their own lives who often sneered at poor breeders from a subculture and sensibility that didn't exactly encourage you to... I'll say it, shall I? ... grow up.

That Millie Jackson has a point when she warbles about "the freedom of my chains". Remove the forces of repression from your life and who are you if not the outline – the consciousness – shaped by those titanic pressures? That's the question currently looming into view and forcing boys to lie down in darkened rooms with whale song tapes and a stiff man: if we're getting it together, why do we feel as if we're falling apart? Pay no heed to the previously reiterated goal of full integration and assurances that "we're just the same as you"; it's a gay man's right to change his mind and Calvin on a hourly basis, and that was propaganda anyway and doesn't count.

Gay men have been caught psychical-

ly unprepared. Partially because we thought the Pride march would be longer (as, in terms of attitude, rather than law, it still could be). And because – shocked faces, everyone – we perhaps never really expected the breakthrough or wanted it. Why else haven't we thought through the aftermath of being on the inside?

For instance, what might assimilation mean for the urban scene? When ghetto walls crumble do boys continue to be boys, or is a bargain (unconsciously) struck with the New Millennium and, oh dear, New Labour? A bargain apparently conditional on the spring cleaning of gay sexuality, partnership rights and marriage would seem to carry the covert message of down with homophobia, up with zips. I only ask: how can a boy continue to palm off every sexual encounter as a celebration of self in the twisted face of a hostile society when society just ain't that hostile? Hrrm?

This is what happens when you publicly insist you're no different from anyone else while secretly believing you're terribly special indeed. It's a contradiction that really couldn't be helped. It's such a great excuse for foul behaviour – for blaming everyone else for your bad days – and now

gay men are apparently expected to be nice and as ordinary as advertised. Is this the New, Improved Homosexual the breakthrough asks for, the pseudo-heterosexual? Straights ticking off the boxes on the demand list might very well think so. They've certainly been encouraged to.

And it might well be, unless the New Improved Homosexual isn't chewed out. The repercussions are enormous and upset queens are off in corners, quivering. Theresa on more tears being shed over answered prayers, never thinking to ask what heterosexuals might do for us, for what we might do for heterosexuals and the full spectrum of their living arrangements and thought. There are ways of being/being we might bring to the party, if we stop behaving like victims even in victory, who better to illuminate the suddenly banal concept of caring, compassion and tolerance? May I suggest the very concentrate less on gains won and more on choice exercised? Before "What's to come of us?" is "What became of us?" and the infinitely postponed is overtaken by events, leaving gay men all dressed up in their civil rights and bitching that the lot doesn't actually suit them?

19/ITALY'S EARTHQUAKES

Umbria shows the civilised way to cope with calamity



The series of earthquakes in Italy recently has not only damaged priceless church art but also forced thousands from their homes. In one of the worst-hit towns, volunteers are eager to help, while the country's notorious bureaucracy has been slow to react

Annifo is the sort of small Umbrian hill town you might, in happier times, have wanted to stop at for coffee and a gentle stroll before driving on towards the more obvious pleasures of Urbino or Assisi. Perched above the plateau of Colfiorito with a good view of the rolling Apennines, it has pretty undulating streets, attractive stone houses and a couple of little bars kitted out with the statutory public telephone and tobacco counter. Or at least it did. Since the first of the seemingly endless series of earthquakes to have hit central Italy, on 26 September, Annifo has become a ghost town. At least half of its buildings have cracked or crumbled. The streets are strewn with rubble and broken roof tiles. The two roads leading in have been half-blocked off with metal barriers and flapping pieces of red and white tape. The only sound to break the

eerie silence is the squeak of loose shutters creaking in the crisp autumn breeze. A weather-beaten notice taped onto one of the metal barriers explains, in convoluted bureaucratese, that the place was officially evacuated on 1 October. In fact, the citizens of Annifo bolted as soon as disaster struck, not daring even to gather up their most basic possessions before leaving. The guts of their lives have literally spilled into the streets: a bright pink loo-brush in the rubble, or a half-empty box of detergent, "for a fragrant hand wash". Some of the detritus has been gathered up as an offering beneath a small wall shrine to Jesus, Mary and Joseph: a lamp, a clock, a pink telephone and a toy rifle.

The life of the town has re-assembled at the bottom of the hill, on the municipal football pitch which has now been converted into a neatly laid-out tent city. About 250 people live in the navy blue government-issue tents, watched over by a group of Neapolitan finance policemen taking a break from their usual duties and provided with food, drink, basic clothing and hygiene by a clutch of volunteers.

This must be one of the best-dressed refugee camps in the world: these people may be homeless and traumatised, but they are also wearing Stefanel autumn colours and brand-new Timberlands. The showers



Homeless: The tent city pasta is perfectly al dente, but the future is full of uncertainty for the people of Annifo. Top left: A Madonna statue on a shattered street

may be a bit ropy (only three to go round, and water that refuses to get hot when it is needed), but the food would not disgrace the tourist dining-rooms of Spoleto or Gubbio: pasta perfectly al dente, with fresh tomato sauce and parmesan, followed by a salad of white beans and tuna fish, all washed down with a rather tasty Friulian white.

The most striking about these earthquakes is how out of place they seem. Umbria, with its green rolling hills, pretty white stone buildings, awe-some artistic heritage and great food, is one of the most civilised places on earth. There is something awe-inspiring, even perverse, about such a natural calamity occurring here - underlining the grim fact that despite the eradication of war, poverty and plague in these parts, human progress has done precious little to protect itself against the unpredictable ravages of earthquakes.

What can one feel but incomprehension at the sight of a house belonging to an elderly peasant couple in Colfiorito, the epicentre of many of the tremors, with its front tipped off and the dining-room furniture knocked off kilter, exposed to the elements like an outsize doll's house capriciously jolted

by some careless child? "We worked all our lives to build this house," said a glum Giuseppe Acerrini as she surveyed the wreckage. "There are strange forces at work here. Even the hills have moved: we can see villages in the next valley that were always hidden from view in the past."

By Italian standards, this is a medium-sized disaster. The tremors that shook the north-east in 1976 killed more than 1,000 people and razed entire towns. In the Naples hinterland four years later, the death toll was almost 3,000. In Umbria and the

Marches, by contrast, no more than a dozen people have died, and the damage has been relatively isolated. Oh, but what damage. The media attention may have been focussed on the Basilica of St Francis

in Assisi, but across the entire landscape one comes across half-crumbled medieval towers, churches reduced to empty shells and picturesque holiday villages flattened into dust.

The pretty town of Nocera Umbra, on the road to Urbino, has been abandoned and its great bell-tower sheared off on one side. In Foligno, an unfashionable valley town, a pretty bell tower above the town hall, complete with Ghibelline crenellations, was progressive-

ly shaken off its brick pedestal until, this Tuesday, it eventually toppled over - just as a crane was moving into position to shore it up.

Recovery from these events is going to be slow and painful. First the tremors have to stop. Then everyone will have to hunker down for the bitter Umbrian winter, already containing homes with decent heat-

ing systems are being brought in to the area. It will be several years before everyone is rehoused - and even then many hill-top communities may be abandoned altogether and rebuilt down in the valley.

Already, one sees two very different Italys at work in the recovery process. The first is an Italy of tremendous solidarity, spontaneous generosity and

practical common sense - the Italy of the volunteer forces. The second is the creaking machinery of state bureaucracy, which is already showing sluggishness and political power-play as it gears up to help the region get back on its feet. One ominous sign is a proposal by the state electricity company to install a 150,000-volt transmission station near



A house in Annifo: The rubble was once the bathroom

PHOTOGRAPHS
BY BRIAN
HARRIS
AND REPORT
BY ANDREW
GUMBEL



Scouts playing with homeless children. The container contains clothes donated by charities

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We're treating paedophiles like medieval outcasts



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Imagine a group of people who are forced to find somewhere else to live whenever the neighbours find out who they are. Who are subject to zoning laws which exclude them from certain areas of the country. Who are excluded from a wide range of occupations and may find it difficult to get any kind of job. Who have to register with the authorities under pain of imprisonment. A group driven eventually to live like vagrants, driven from parish to parish like paupers for whom no one wanted to be responsible under the Poor Law.

Unthinkable, surely, in late 20th-century Britain? Except when those concerned are paedophiles, perpetrators of crimes so repugnant that their convictions are never spent. Many of them have served their time, but cannot pay their debt to society and face a life as medieval outcasts.

Robert Oliver has been hounded out of five English towns since his release from prison, after serving eight years of a 15-year sentence for his part in the killing of

14-year-old Jason Swift. Now he has nowhere else to go and has surrendered himself at Brighton police station, television set under one arm and all his worldly possessions in a carrier bag.

The police don't know what to do with him. If he chooses to go out, all they can do is follow him around, make sure he doesn't go near any children and protect him from the lynch mob.

Now, *The Independent* is totally against lynch law and vigilantism. But we have to admit that, while we are not in the mob, we could be accused of inciting the crowd from the sidelines. We helped to expose the terrible crimes of child abusers in care homes. We campaigned to have the voices of the abused heard. And we lent our weight to the NSPCC's campaign for a national register of child sex offenders.

This is a field in which we are prepared to consider measures from which civil libertarians have traditionally shrunk. The register is a small step towards improving

the exchange of information between agencies so needed to detect and prevent child abuse. Nor should we shrink from considering seriously more drastic measures, such as surgical or chemical castration or literal life sentences.

But it cannot be right that paedophiles are driven into a kind of subhuman limbo, hounded to death or despair in the gutter. Nor is a policy consisting entirely of negative sanctions likely to succeed.

It is time to stand back and examine the nature, extent and causes of sexual pre-occupation with children. The first point to be made is that most abusers are related (or step-related) to the children they molest. Predatory, calculating strangers – the focus of most popular fears – are rare, although that is not to say we need not worry about them. Second, one of the main causes of child abuse is physical or sexual abuse in the offender's own childhood.

Both points suggest that the best policy of prevention is to strengthen families and

protect children. But even if Tony Blair's most ambitious rhetoric of "strong families" were to be realised, paedophiles would still exist and children would still need to be protected.

And this is the matter where the instincts, even of liberals, are their most draconian. Indeed, in principle, there is a strong case for castration – normally the first refuge of hangers, floggers and moral simpletons. A substantial proportion of paedophiles are unwilling or unable to change their behaviour. But the evidence is that it does not work. Neither surgical removal of the testes nor drugs completely suppresses the sex drive. Last year, a new law was brought in requiring second-time child sex offenders in California to choose one or the other: but since then the hanger-flogger lobby has been mysteriously quiet, suggesting, at the very least, an absence of instant results.

So the liberal orthodoxy must remain dominant. Offenders should be encouraged

to take responsibility for their behaviour and helped to change it. Prison is not the best place to do this, nor is the exclusive company of other offenders the best environment – a serious policy of containment will be expensive. But it will require harsh measures too, for the few who will always show to work, it should be an option available. If some people have to be locked up for the whole of their lives, that should be, too. The important thing is that someone must decide.

The real question about Robert Oliver is whether or not he is a threat to children. If he is, or if there is serious doubt, he should not have been let out (especially as there are seven years of his nominal sentence to run). If he is not, he should be protected. Someone must decide. Sex crimes against children cannot be treated as a single episode to be decided by a judge at one point in time, but a lifetime's responsibility for a clearly defined agency.

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and include a daytime telephone number.
Fax 0171 293 2050; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk
E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address.
Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

LETTERS

Superstate perils

Sir: David Rowlands (letter, 14 October) trots out the old mantra that anyone against European integration is xenophobic.

Why is it xenophobic to prefer that one's own country is governed by its own parliament? In a fully "integrated" Europe the former independent nations will receive central direction from Brussels and Frankfurt by unelected officials.

Oh well, the European Parliament should be given real power to address the democratic deficit, says the federalist.

My vote will be reduced by a factor of at least 10, given the EU population of 400 million and would be counted in among German CDU voters, Spanish Partido Popular, French Parti Socialiste and so on.

What do I know of the political traditions and concerns of these parties, or they of mine? I do not understand why so many continental parties have the word "Christian" in their titles: it seems bizarre from a British perspective. How can I participate in political debate when I don't understand the parameters? Even more so if I do not speak all the requisite languages. I am trilingual and married to someone who has just acquired dual nationality. We are on good terms with our neighbours, an Italian/German couple, but we have no plans to knock a hole through our walls and share everything.

Why does Mr Rowlands feel so strongly about a federal Europe? Is it the dream of constructing a powerful bloc to stand up to the US and the Far East and the rest of the world? Isn't this just good old-fashioned power politics, with a country called Europe aggressively exerting itself on the world stage? Why did the European Parliament, a year or so ago, call for Europe to have its own nuclear weapons? PETER GARDNER
Oxford

Football fans abroad

Sir: I am alarmed at Tony Blair's insistence that he is entitled to an explanation of the events in Rome last Saturday from the Italians.

The chief objection on this side of the divide appears to be the refusal of the host country

to accept lock, stock and beer barrel the transportation of the traditional English Saturday night to their streets. Further, the nanny-statism that insists on wet nursing people, sheep-like, through football matches in this country has not yet transferred itself abroad.

Free expression is still allowed at sporting occasions in Italy. This does require people to turn up early to a game, at least attempt to have some understanding of where they are going (a tiny bit of knowledge of the language, perchance, can help) and be aware of the items that may not be acceptable for carriage into the ground (anything you can throw or light a fire with). In return they are allowed to create a bit of atmosphere and enjoy a lively and trouble-free experience. Step out of line, however, and the carabinieri have but one tactic – quell it as swiftly as possible with a show of

force. It may be right, it may be wrong but it works for them.

As a football lover who intends to travel to France for next year's competition I find the whole thing disturbing. The Italians are normally the most amenable of people, particularly where the British are concerned. The French are likely to take a much harder line. MICHAEL KILLIN
Woking Surrey

Loyal workers

Sir: Hamish McRae is too dismissive of the value of loyalty at work ("How to survive the arrival of the disloyal work-force", 15 October).

He is right to draw attention to the vast mergers now being planned across Europe, and probably correct to predict a gloomy future for the employees whose redundancy will represent an "efficiency saving". But companies cannot really

flourish in the longer term if they are staffed by anxious survivors constantly looking over their shoulder. Nor can the boss simply send a memo round instructing employees to "be loyal".

Senior managers earn loyalty, as McRae implies, by training and developing their people. Loyal staff, like loyal customers and loyal investors, support competitiveness and quality. Loyal employees develop a network of contacts and invaluable experience that would be lost if they chose to walk.

Financiers and accountants are unable to place a monetary value on loyalty, trust and morale, which is perhaps why these qualities get overlooked in discussions about the logic of mergers and acquisitions. JO GARDINER
Campaign Manager
The Industrial Society
London W1

Prison reformed

Sir: The media reaction to the delayed Chief Inspector's report on Parkhurst prison ("Jail regime condemned as appalling", 3 October) would rightly cause public concern if radical action had not taken place.

Since 1992 the reports of the Board of Visitors indicated grave concerns over the treatment of prisoners/patients in the Health Care Centre.

The Governor's absolute priority after the escape had to be security. In addition he was faced with budget cuts, downgrading to Category B status and demoralised staff. The prisoners treated in the Health Care Centre remain, by the nature of their medical condition, very demanding, placing great strains on the skills and humanity of management and staff.

During 1997 the restructuring of the Health Care Centre has begun to take effect. The

care shown to prisoners who are at risk of self-harm has reached a high standard. I am sure that the Chief Inspector will find considerable change for the better when he next visits. RICHARD GULLY
Binstead, Isle of Wight
The writer is a member of Parkhurst Board of Visitors

'War' in Ulster

Sir: Thomas Sutcliffe's column of 8 October gave the impression that the "war" between the SAS and IRA was a failure.

Just before this offensive started the non-aligned and Unionist population were having to get used to increased violence. They saw the security forces as impotent. When the security forces hit back against the IRA's "active service units" IRA attacks, while not stopped, were certainly scaled down.

There were much-regretted innocents killed in these opera-

tions but they were far fewer than there would have been if the IRA had been allowed to have the run of the province, as they had up until then. In a history of bungling the Thatcher government came up with a scheme that, to a large extent, worked. In a world in which all killing is bad, it was a necessary evil.

Thomas Sutcliffe's SAS/IRA "war" was a far better "recruiting sergeant" for the security forces of Northern Ireland than the IRA. I speak from experience. D R CLYDE
Fife

Sir: The week in review: The Queen need not apologise for the massacre in Amritsar (nor Derry nor anywhere else); but Tony Blair should not shake hands with Gerry Adams because of the blood on them. THOMAS HUTCHISON
McFADDEN
London W11

Cannabis not so soft

Sir: Andreas Whitam Smith (14 October) quotes from the journal *Science* in his defence of the recreational use of cannabis.

On 27 June two relevant papers were published: one showed that the emotional stress in marijuana withdrawal was caused by corticotropin releasing factor, the agent responsible for the symptoms of opiate, alcohol and cocaine withdrawal, the second that tetrahydrocannabinol (the active ingredient in marijuana) results in the same key biochemical event that seems to reinforce dependence on other drugs, from nicotine to heroin, namely the release of dopamine in part of the brain's "reward" pathway.

The journal concluded that "contrary to the popular view that marijuana is a relatively benign drug, new evidence suggests its effects in the brain resemble those of 'hard' drugs such as heroin".

Dr MARTIN HEATH
Public Affairs Officer, Brighton
Division, British Medical
Association
Leaves,
East Sussex

Life of Cairncross

Sir: There is no truth whatever in your reviewer's assertion ("The Enigma Spy", 7 October) that "other hands" wrote the autobiography of my brother, John Cairncross. Every word (except what appears in quotation marks) was written by him before his death, including the mistaken reference to Sir William Strang. The work of editing did not involve fresh writing, but only the addition of material from various drafts left behind.

Sir ALEC CAIRNCROSS
Oxford

Hanging on

Sir: When telephone callers are caught in one of those cacophonous queues with a distorted musical pacifier, why are they not updated as to its changing length? At least then, there would be some sense of progress – or a rational decision to ring off.

GERARD M BLAIR
West Linton,
Peebleshire

When the TV boys are in town ... fables from the media world



MILES KINGDON

The world of television is a mystery to many people, especially to those who work in it, so today I am bringing you some extracts from a work I have recently come across which seems to shed some light on it. It is called *Fables from Media World*, and that is just what it is: a series of simple, sometimes rather beautiful fables about the people who live in the strange world of film, television and radio.

Here are several little tales from this unusual collection. See what you think.

The Lady who Walked to India
Once upon a time there was a lady walking into her local village in Burma carrying a very

colourful parasol just as a film crew from Europe was shooting a sequence for a TV series to be called *Around the Pacific Rim with Michael Palin Again But a Bit Further Away From the Centre Than Last Time*. The assistant director noticed her and persuaded the director that she would look good passing behind the shot they were shooting.

"OK," said the director, "but for God's sake tell her not to look round at the camera." "She says that is fine," said the translator, "but she wants to know how far to walk."

"I'll tell her to stop," said the director absently.

The first take was fine, and the film crew packed up ready to move on to the next location.

It was only then that the sound man noticed that the woman was still walking, five hundred yards down the road.

"Shouldn't we go and tell her to stop?" he said.

"Not time," said the director. "Anyway, she'll realise."

But the lady had more moral sense than the director. Three months later, she reached the border of India, 400 miles away, where she died soon afterwards.

Moral: When the TV boys are in town, leave your coloured parasol at home.

The Man in the Shop
Once, there was a man in a shop buying flower seeds. Everyone else in the shop was a film crew,

filming the shop, for this was where Rupert Brooke had once bought a tennis racket before the First World War, or perhaps where Ted Hughes had once bought some black ribbon to tie round his arm when a pet had died – anyway, it was for an arts documentary which you almost certainly didn't see, and the man buying the seeds was filmed in the background because he looked very authentic.

"What's this for?" he said. "It's for a documentary on Siegfried Sassoon," said the PA.

"Ah!" said the man with the seeds, who had never heard of him. "And when is it coming out?"

"In January," she said, for PAs are always female.

"I'll watch it," he said. And so he did. But his bit had been cut out.

Moral: If the people that run TV companies realised that everyone in the world has switched on at least once to see themselves on the telly, and always been let down, they would realise why nobody in the world ever trusts them on bigger matters.

The Man Who Listened to Noises

If you have ever made a television programme outside, perhaps about sheep in the Welsh hillsides, you will know that every now and again, just as the director is about to shout "Action!", the sound man will say (quietly), "Sorry, aeroplane

coming." This means that the noise will make it impossible to film for at least five minutes, by which time the sun will have gone in again and the sheep will have moved.

Well, one day a TV director was having this trouble when he said in his exasperation, "Why can't I make a bloody programme about a sound man who has constant trouble with aircraft noise? Then at least we could go on filming when a plane comes over!"

This was overheard by a senior TV executive, who thought it would make a rather good off-beat programme to film a story based on the troubles of a sound man. So they wrote the script and got the actors (and a different director

from the one who had had the idea, for which he never got paid or the credit) and went back to the Welsh hills, which are gratifyingly full of low-flying aircraft, to do the story, which was to be called: *Sorry, Aeroplane Coming*.

They set up the first scene, in which the actor playing the sound man arrives in his car, but just as a plane came in sight and the scene was about to be shot, the real sound man put up his hand and told them to stop.

"I'm sorry," he said, as the plane screamed overhead, "but I'm getting sheep noise."

Moral: Well, at least someone in TV has still got standards.

More fables from the land of media soon!

The Lord Chancellor puts the lawyers on trial



**DONALD
MACINTYRE
IN PLACE OF
LEGAL AID**

There is a brilliantly simple 19th century cartoon of two farmers sweatingly tugging at a cow from each end; it's obvious that each is claiming ownership. Underneath the beast is a bewigged and smiling gentleman sitting comfortably on a stool milking. The drawing graphically illustrates a great truth about litigation – that the lawyers never lose. It's a great truth which nevertheless is about to be turned on its head. One criticism of the Government is that it hasn't made many enemies. That may now change. A hard choice is on its way. Tomorrow Lord Irvine, the Lord Chancellor, takes on one of the most entrenched vested interests in the country – his own profession.

He will outline in a speech to the Law Society in Cardiff a genuinely radical reform to the legal system. In its own way the biggest since legal aid was first introduced by the Attlee government. It will extend across much of the civil justice system the revolutionary principle, tentatively and experimentally introduced by his predecessor for a small part of it, that lawyers should only be able to pick up their fees from litigants if they win their cases.

Conditional fees, often known as the "no win, no fee" system, are in essence a simple idea. The lawyer isn't paid if he loses a case for damages but increases his charges by helping himself to a percentage of the payout to his client if he wins. That way he covers the costs for the cases he loses. It should make litigation much more plausible for the growing group of people who aren't poor enough to qualify for legal aid but aren't rich enough to meet the costs themselves. It should indeed discourage many of the more frivolous cases; but it may well bring lawyers quite a lot of new business from those on middle incomes who shrink from the costs of litigation. The public will surely like the idea that lawyers at last have a powerful built-in financial incentive to perform well. But while it may be simple it isn't uncontroversial. The Bar Council, now surely the most formidable trade union in Britain, is marshalling its forces. The Law Society cannot be far behind.

What this is about, of course, is the spiralling legal aid budget. The principle that no-one should be excluded from going to court for damages by poverty is incontrovertible; but legal aid is a hungry monster. Since 1990-91, it has increased by 115 per cent, from £682m to £1,477bn. Ninety per cent goes on lawyers' fees. Since 1993-94, it has gone up by 22 per cent in a period of 7 per cent inflation. Legal aid has become for lawyers rather what housing benefit has become for landlords. It pays up relentlessly whatever the standard of service and the chances of a case succeeding. Suddenly, "no win, no fee" looks a much more attractive alternative. And Irvine will couple this

with the new fast-track, fixed-cost regime for civil courts, recommended by Lord Woolf, which will deter paid by the hour barristers from spinning cases out as long as they want.

The Bar Council's objections have so far been unpersuasive, to put it mildly. In a letter to Lord Irvine, Robert Owen QC, the Council's chairman, uses the peculiar argument that the amount by which lawyers increase their fees for winning cases will be fixed according to their assessment of how risky the case is. But since most clients won't be able to assess that risk themselves, they may have the wool pulled over their eyes and end up paying their lawyers more than they deserve. Never mind that this problem could be reduced by capping the fees increase; or that when a leading silk starts warning that lawyers may be paid too well, it strains credulity to breaking point. Is Mr Owen really saying that lawyers are such sharks that they can't be trusted to administer the system properly? And if he is, then shouldn't be looking a little more rigorously at the professional ethics of his colleagues?

There are, of course, potential problems, identified rather more cogently by the Legal Action Group than they have been by the Bar Council. One is that in cases of medical negligence actions – one of the principal deterrents against incompetence by surgeons and physicians – you need to spend around £5,000 on medical examinations, expert reports, and so on, before anyone can even make a sensible judgement about whether it's worth bringing a case at all. If the client has to meet those costs, the poorest NHS patients, who are every bit as vulnerable to medical negligence as the better off, wouldn't even get to first base. Another is the problem of insuring against defeat in all kinds of cases. Even if the risk of defeat would be much less than it is under the present system, paying the other side's costs when that happens is still a daunting prospect for litigants, especially poorer ones. But instead of bleating, in tones of rather unconvincing altruism, about this problem, perhaps the legal profession should consider meeting those costs themselves. After all these will be cases they have already assessed have a good chance of success; for them litigation is a business proposition. Why shouldn't they pay some of the up-front costs themselves? Irvine will keep an open mind tomorrow; he won't rule out the possibility of keeping legal aid for some of these costs. But he will need a lot of convincing that they can't under the new regime be met by the lawyers themselves.

Certainly if the reform means that poor people can't bring cases that they have every chance of winning, then it will have failed. Lord Irvine will make it clear tomorrow that he has not intention of allowing poor litigants with good cases to fall through the net. But equally there is no reason why those who qualify for legal aid shouldn't have to consider the same question as those who pay for legal action out of their own money: has my case a good chance of succeeding?

This is a lot tougher than anything the previous government attempted on legal aid. But it goes with grain of its ideas about welfare reform. The public, if not the lawyers, will probably accept it because they don't believe, as they would have of the previous one, that this government is cutting for its own sake. It is possible, in the long run and within the long term public spending remit laid down by Gordon Brown to imagine saving from legal aid being spent on hospitals, or schools. Lawyers should remember that before they embark on a fight to the death.

Cyberpets can school us in the limits of virtual reality



**SUZANNE
MOORE
TAMAGOTCHIS
FOR PARENTS**

At a meeting the other day I noticed a high-flying academic fiddling around in her bag. "She is probably being paged by someone incredibly important," I thought to myself. At the end of the meeting she admitted that what she had in her bag was a Tamagotchi, a Japanese cyberpet. "I'm just looking after it," she said, "I've promised to keep it alive". I recognised the air of desperation in her voice for I too am suffering from Tamagotchi fatigue, from sleepless nights caused by this bleeping thing in my bed. My daughter sleeps peacefully while her virtual puppy demands to be fed or played with or given medicine and I wonder how to contact a virtual vet to have it virtually put down.

Tamagotchi means "loveable egg"; for the uninitiated, they look like key-rings with a tiny LCD screen in the middle. On screen the virtual pet is hatched as a baby – Bebitchi (Babey) and the goal is to keep it alive as long as possible till it becomes Oyajitchi (Grampsy). You can buy puppies, kittens, chickens and dinosaurs. Dinosaurs are harder to keep alive because they need to have their vests on before they go to bed. You wouldn't want to be responsible for their extinction now would you? To lead a happy and healthy life Tamagotchis need to be constantly fed, exercised, cleaned up and given medicine. These things defecate, play hide and seek and can be naughty enough to require discipline. Unfortunately over-disciplining can also kill them as a zealous colleague reports: "Sure I had one but I beat it to death." When they die they grow little wings and float upwards. Presumably to cyber-heaven.

I am afraid that have become so callous that I have let our bleep away all night only to be woken up by hysterical sobbing because the bloody thing had not turned into an angel. Instead it had died in its own excrement, because if you do not clean up the screen each time it produces a streaming mud, then the stuff piles up and the pet dies. Imagine if you can the sheer horror of it all. A dog



Japanese shoppers elated to find Tamagotchis for sale in a London store

Photograph: Chris Helgren

may be for life and not just for Christmas but let me warn prospective owners, a Tamagotchi goes on for ever. Yes, they may be cute, a novelty even; but think about the responsibility, broken sleep, the constant attention and ask yourself are you ready for this.

Obviously we all think we can handle it. This latest craze, described to me as "Japan's revenge on the Western world" has swept through our schools and playgrounds. Tamagotchis are now sensibly banned from most schools, which means that mothers now have to baby-sit these cyber-pets while their kids are at school. They are no longer cult objects but cheap and freely available. While selling for extortionate prices on the black market in Japan, you can now buy them for a fiver in Oxford Street. For those who are less mainstream, I am informed, that alternative drug addict Tamagotchis are available that you can inject with heroin to keep happy. For the truly stressed out there are even Tamagotchi crèches where, for a fee, one person can look after a number of the little beggars.

So this is virtual reality. Not as we have been promised, some William Gibson version of cyber-space in which our identities form and fuse according to our desires, but something much more mundane. We have the technology... and what do we do with it? We make kooky little digital representations that we pretend

are alive so that we can look after them. We make technology that needs us, whose whole function is to reassure us that without our tender loving care it will not survive. Then we give it to our children who are much more adept at programming it than we will ever be. While many of us cannot programme our videos, five year olds have no problem in working out how to care for their Cyber-pets.

We used to buy children real pets in order, we would solemnly declare, to teach them about life. And death. And if we were unlucky sex. In my case, a back yard full of dead rodents of various descriptions has taught my children that hamsters and mice don't always live very long but you can soon get another one. Cyber-pets also die regularly but can immediately be re-born. The mourning process can quickly be circumvented by simply hatching out another one. Though in Japan, bereavement counselling has been set up for those who appear to take the loss of a Tamagotchi very seriously indeed, children seem remarkably resilient – perhaps because they realise that the only way to kill a Tamagotchi for good is to drop it in the bath.

A recurrent fear about the digital revolution or the information age or the wired world is that we will no longer be able to tell fantasy from reality. We will inhabit an entirely mediated world in which face-to-face so-

cial interaction will be minimised. Electronic communities will be formed by those who will never meet. Such a future appears to us as impoverished, impersonal, introverted.

However the technology that we grab at gleefully in the present is incredibly domesticated, chatty and casual. Mobile phones are not used for terribly important and urgent conversations but as a way of being constantly "in touch". Many mobile phone users treat their phones as a child would treat a Tamagotchi. They recognise their special ring, they lovingly recharge their batteries, they don't leave home without them.

The idea that somehow technology gets in the way of, or replaces, real relationships is patently untrue. It supplements them. It facilitates them. It points to a fundamental wish to connect more rather than less with other people. Tamagotchis, after all, are so popular because the desire to nurture remains strong. They are not animals and they are not babies but they

are a responsibility; they make their owners feel needed, for a while anyway.

Children I am happy to say soon tire of the whole pretence. In between attending to the constant demands of virtual pets they live on a diet of television programmes, most of which feature Rolf Harris rescuing animals, or communing with photogenic vets in *Animal Hospital*. Such pet propaganda is finely balanced between life and death, for every cat that dies of a neurological disease, some mangy dog goes on to find a new caring owner. Kids soon work out that virtual pets are one thing but they would like a real puppy for their very own. The virtual pet is no substitute. Instead of a key-ring that bleeps they would prefer, as my daughter says, "something that breathes". You see, children grow up so fast these days – perhaps because they realise early on what many adults have yet to learn: that you can't, in the end, cuddle a concept, however much you try.

Can you say the unsayable when the government is your client?



**ANN
TRENEMAN
THINK
TANKS**

There is nothing that riles the new deputy director at Demos more than to ask whether the think tank has become too close to the Labour government. "Why would you think that?" demands Ian Christie. Well, for starters, there is the fact that Demos director Geoff Mulgan is also an adviser to Tony Blair's policy unit. Can you have Big Ideas and be Labour luvvies at the same time? Shouldn't a think tank be out there ploughing a lonely furrow?

That is the wrong view.

During their heyday in the Seventies and Eighties, the right-wing think tanks weren't ploughing a lonely furrow. They were having dinner the whole time with Mrs Thatcher and Keith Joseph. Demos doesn't do that," says Mr Christie. "Speaking personally I've never been to a new Labour luvvie party. I wouldn't know what the inside of a Terence Conran restaurant looks like. None of us at Demos live in Islington. But there is no point in ploughing a lonely furrow. The point is to be influential. So if we are influential with the Government, we are absolutely delighted."

Demos is not alone in being so delighted. The Institute for Public Policy Research is its think tank stablemate on the centre left, and soon it is faxing me a list of people who have gone from the institute into government. There are seven names on the list but there may be more. It's the kind of thing that is hard to keep track of these days.

More surprising, perhaps, is that the Adam Smith Institute is also pleased to be influential with the new government. The institute's newsletter is brutally pragmatic. "After 18 years of working with a Conservative government, the obvious ques-

tion is 'How will the Adam Smith Institute adapt to working with a Labour government?' The answer is 'amoothly'."

Director Eamonn Butler immediately starts dropping the names of Labour ministers who are attending the institute's new lecture series, "Achieving Labour's Aims". Can this be the same institute that once advocated the virtual abolition of government? "We prefer to think of ourselves as promoting the values of a free society," says Mr Butler. "Our job is to work with the politicians of the day. If governments change, then we have to work with them. There are many things in the Labour manifesto one can agree with. So much is in the presentation of policy. We have to work with everybody."

A few years ago such a statement would have shocked but this is the new age of bendy centrist politics and so it only brings a laugh or two. "There is a lot of cross dressing now because the political centre has moved so much to the right," says Tessa Kewick of the Centre for Policy Studies, which was set up in 1974 by Mrs Thatcher and Keith Joseph. She, at least, is not pretending to be influential with Labour, though

she does think there are areas where the two might have interests that overlap.

All of this makes very interesting viewing for the likes of Lord Harris of High Cross, who ran what was the most influential think tank of them all in the Eighties, the Institute for Economic Affairs. "The IEA started with a wholly academic board and we were principally concerned with the economic systems of a free society. We then became quite acceptable," he says with masterful understatement. But he stresses that the IEA was never keen to be part of the inner circle of the day. "You've got to pursue the analysis with vigour and ignore what politicians say."

This is perhaps the toughest lesson for think tanks like Demos and IPPR. After all, both are too young to have ever been close to power before. The IPPR, in particular, does not see its links with Labour as a conflict of interest.

Director Gerry Holtham points out that its role has always been more towards solving specific problems than speculating on big ideas. He even talks about what it was like to be in opposition and compares the role of a think tank to that of the

civil service. "Before the election we asked ourselves, will our function have to change a lot when Labour win? Surely, we thought, they will have civil service that will do a lot of the policy analysis that we in the past have done. But these last few months have shown us that it is not true. There is scope for our problem-oriented approach simply because the civil service is working on the current agenda and doesn't have the capacity to deal with the future."

Demos sees things differently. The think-tank was founded only in 1993 with the goal of breaking through the traditional boundaries of left and right, and Ian Christie has no desire to change this. He is full of plans: a big new area for Demos will be the environment and future work will be much "crunchier" (i.e. aimed at providing specific solutions). Independence is key.

"Many of our publications could be adopted by the Tories," he says, gesturing towards the pamphlets on display along the windowsill of Demos's distinctly antirendy basement offices near Fleet Street. "We want to be influential with the Conservative party. It's no good to this coun-

try have a Conservative party that is as intellectually bereft as the Labour party was in the early eighties. Part of what Demos is about is to give a home to conservatives who want to rethink what they are about."

Geoff Mulgan agrees. "The Tories are very important to us. Don't get aligned. That's what stops thinking." Such a statement would carry a bit more weight, of course, if it wasn't being delivered by an adviser to Tony Blair, and many onlookers are watching to see what happens next. "If you've sold yourself as a think tank that is independent then you lose some of your legitimacy once you take the inside track," says co-founder Martin Jacques. "This is clearly a problem for Demos."

Yesterday Demos sent round a press release clarifying Geoff Mulgan's role. It said he was taking leave from his post as director but that he would remain involved in Demos' work. It is a compromise but still a tough line to walk. The job of an exceptional think tank is to think the unthinkable and say the unsayable and to care about little else. After all, politicians come and go but a great thought can last forever. Or at least that's the idea.

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Professor George Forrest

William George Grieve Forrest, ancient historian, born Glasgow 24 September 1925; Fellow, Wadham College, Oxford 1951-76 (Emeritus); Wykeham Professor of Ancient History, Oxford University 1977-92 (Emeritus); Fellow, New College, Oxford 1977-92 (Emeritus); married 1956 Margaret Hall (two daughters); died Oxford 14 October 1997.

George Forrest taught Greek history at Wadham College, Oxford from 1951, appointed by the man who became his deep friend, Maurice Bowra. In 1977 he took up the Ancient History Chair, but will be remembered especially as a thrilling undergraduate tutor who taught many of today's classics stars. "Why," I asked, "was he such an exciting teacher?" "He made the fragmentary come alive," said one. "He made you see connections."

His writing ranged throughout Greek history. The Delphic oracle had been excavated by the French and interpreted as religion; no one had sifted its history and politics. Forrest's articles on that are still the basis of Delphic history. In his books, *The Emergence of Greek Democracy* (1966) and *A History of Sparta* (1968), he brought crucial journalistic qualities – clarity, accessibility, fair-minded debunking – to Greek history, without selling scholarship short.

He preferred people to ideas, making intellectual history exciting by doing it through personalities, and arguing that Greek democracy – therefore everyone's democracy – was not designed; it came about by accident. (Some of his pupils have spent their lives arguing the opposite, but this is still the dominant view in America.) His hallmark was, "Don't believe anything anyone says. Why did they say what they did?" He was the first (with Moses Finley) to defend Athenian democracy against the dominant upper-class academic establishment, who for centuries mainly parroted Plato's attacks on it hook, line and sinker. ("Of course they were stupid: look – they killed Socrates"). Forrest kick-started a radical re-appreciation of the astonishing Athenian experiment (government effectively by referendum, lasting 200 years), an appreciation whose details are only being filled in today.

His work was powered by profound knowledge of sources, fierce democratic feeling, and inextinguishable political enjoyment. Even on his deathbed, he must have adored the spectacle of Tory politicians trying to become the caring society. The last news conversation I had with him was on Gadafi's conspiracy theory about Princess Diana's death. Riddled with cancer, only on fluids (and barely on those),

he roared with laughter. "If Gadafi's right," he said, "it'll be the only plot MIS thought up that ever worked."

George Forrest did something to his friends which made them unwitting members of an international confederacy: a band of people who loved him and his wife Margaret, the supreme beauty of her Oxford generation. (Forrest carried her off, against all competition, in his scarlet sports car Lily Christine.) You could take the pair of them into the lowest Cretan dive and they'd be instantly at home, remembered fondly by the establishment for years. "How's your friend?" they'd say. "That George. What a lively boy! What wicked eyes!" (A big Cretan compliment – or it was, in the Seventies.) "Why did you like him?" I asked an English sculptor. "He was so personal," he said. "When he talked to you, there was always a hidden little barb. He was endearing and wicked. Underneath he was sentimental; on top he was a hard-



Forrest: democratic feeling

headed Scot. And there was that enormous sense of fun."

Forrest was proud of being Scots and knew the best fields to steal frozen turnips from when hungry. His father William Forrest was a brilliant journalist who covered the Spanish Civil War and Second World War for the *New Chronicle*. George himself was in the second wave of the Normandy Landings, a radio operator (in "Weather") in the RAF Breakfast on the day was a nightmare.

"The Americans brought food we hadn't seen for years," he said. "We went along the line with our plates, our eyes getting bigger as the mound grew. Then the last chef dipped a ladle in his pot and poured strawberry jam over the whole bloody lot. Couldn't eat a thing!" Forrest loathed unnecessary things: jelly on bacon, water (he preferred gin), or showing off. He was a tolerant, conservative communist: from strawberry jam to pretension, he wasn't going to forbid what disgusted him. But he did, very quietly, find it hugely funny.

He loved Greece in all its forms and shadows. "Ancient Greece, modern Greece: on both he would come out with a quiet one-liner that changed

everything and made you see differently," said an Athens-based journalist. His love affair with modern Greece began at the British School at Athens in the Fifties. When the junta appeared in 1967, he was a key figure for Greek intellectuals. Several would have been imprisoned, maybe tortured, but for his tireless letter-writing. Greece in exile beat a track to the door of his chaotic Wadham room. He knew where and how to protest and could be relied on to do it, and stop British academics visiting the country. Afterwards, he was deeply loved as a philhellene who'd really come across for Greece, and got an honorary degree at Athens; but you'd mainly find him in the low-life tavernas with Margaret's wit, grace, beauty and humanity giving his wickedness and crumpled off-dun jacket (he hated sickness of every kind) their perfect foil.

He loved Wadham and all connected with it, deeply. His central table, rampant with books and epigraphical squeezes, revealed itself out of term as a billiard table. Only he knew the secret of its mystic slope. He also knew every story to the discredit of every Wadham-made ambassador and politician. Unfailingly courteous, kind and loyal, he delighted in pomposity. Even in *extremis*, he had a gift like the kick of champagne for appreciating human failings. He once broke his ankle at a mountain festival on the island of Chios. No one wanted to leave; everyone, down to the donkeys, was hopelessly, as he put it, pie-eyed. Eventually he persuaded a policeman and his friend to drive the three-hour roller-coaster into town. *En route*, the policeman disagreed with his friend about how to put tapes in the cassette-player. They stopped; they argued; the car was on an outside bend above a precipice in the dark. Forrest, now in real agony, but with his collector's delight in idiocy, leant over and chuckled. "Magnificent incompetence," he whispered.

As a student stuck in chamber music, I refused to countenance the idea that Verdi was the man to love. "Come round and listen, ducks," he said, and through a summer night played his entire collection of early records acquired by cigarette-barter in post-war Berlin. There was Galli-Curci singing "Caro Nome" over 1930s crackles and George pouring endless drinks that said, in triumphant silence, "See?" He'd find something funny on a limo to Hades, some hitherto unknown idiosyncrasy in the last conscious hours he made effort after generous effort to respond to the many people desperate to talk to him. Wherever George Forrest has gone, he'll still be giving people something new to think and laugh about.

— Ruth Padel



Delubac: pert, soubretteish leading lady

Photograph: Hulton Getty

Jacqueline Delubac

Jacqueline Basset (Jacqueline Delubac), actress, born Lyon 1910; married 1935 Sacha Guitry (marriage dissolved); died Paris 14 October 1997.

"I am 50 today. Jacqueline is 25. What could be more reasonable than that I make her my better half?" So said Sacha Guitry – actor, dramatist, film-maker, wit, and, for 60 years, the epitome of Parisian boulevardier panache – of his marriage to Jacqueline Delubac in 1935.

Delubac was the third of Guitry's five wives and protégées. The first was Charlotte Lyses, then came Yvonne Printemps, who might be described as the French Gertrude Lawrence. Then, in fourth position, Genevieve de Sèzeville, and, last, Lana Marconi. Printemps apart, the career of each of these actresses was entirely predicted on Guitry's patronage. As soon as he had divorced them, they were, professionally speaking, finished.

So it was with Jacqueline Delubac, whose filmography abruptly tails off in the Fifties after their estrangement. Unlike either de Sèzeville or Marconi, however, she was more than just a chic stogie. Even if one cannot abide Guitry's flamboyant urbanity and nasally whinnying delivery, it is possi-

ble to enjoy the dozen feathery comedies in which they co-starred (and all of which he directed) for their pert, soubretteish leading lady, with her near-supernatural vivacity, her deliciously retouched nose, her oddly flapping lips – you have to see her deliver one of Guitry's *mots* to know what I am talking about – and her charming artlessness. Never at a loss for words, Guitry himself evoked her appeal thus: "You turn up from the provinces – and you look it – just a year on, one wonders if she were born in La Villette or Montmartre and 18 months after that, you've become so indelibly Parisian one begins to suspect you might be a foreigner."

In fact, it was in Lyon, the capital, as it were, of the French provinces, that she was born – into a family which had amassed a fortune from the manufacture of artificial silk. From her earliest youth, however, her resolve was to become an actress; and, by the mid-Thirties, she had gravitated to Paris, where she appeared in a revue, impersonating, quite unimagingly, Josephine Baker. Possibly realising that there was no future in so patent a misdirection of her talents, she arranged to have herself introduced to Guitry, who immediately cast her in a new play, *Villa à ven-*

dre, and, slightly less immediately, married her.

Thereafter, she was his glamorous foil in a series of now classic movie comedies. In *Bonne Chance* (1935) she played his gambling partner. In *Faisons un rêve* (*Let's Dream Together*, 1936), a seamless confection, as airy, hollow and insubstantial as a bubble, perhaps, but an amorously chiselled one, she has a knock all her own of "witticism" an ostensibly innocuous line of dialogue that makes one regret she never played Wilde or Coward. ("My darling," she pointedly asks a philandering Guitry at the breakfast table, "will you please give me a direct answer to a direct question? Do you or do you not want butter on your toast?") And in *Mon Père avait raison* (*My Father Was Right*, 1937), a self-styled "light tragedy" which, on stage, had featured Sacha's own father, the great Lucien Guitry, she so persuasively captured the style of the original that Guitry absent-mindedly remarked to his director of photography, "I love the way you lit that scene between my father and Jacqueline."

Jacqueline Delubac, in short, never put a foot wrong. Except, alas, in the circumstances of her passing. She died, at 87, as a result of injuries sustained in a traffic accident.

— Gilbert Adair

Adil Çarçani

Adil Çarçani, politician, born Fushë-Bardha, Albania 4 May 1922; Deputy Prime Minister of Albania 1965-82; Prime Minister 1982-91; married (two daughters); died Tirana 13 October 1997.

Prime Minister at the beginning of 1982. His promotion followed the death, in mysterious circumstances, of Hoxha's closest comrade-in-arms – and apparent rival – Prime Minister Mehmet Shehu.

Çarçani was a pliant associate during what turned out to be the final phase of Hoxha's dictatorship. And following Hoxha's death in 1985, there was no surprise when the top job of AWP leader went to the head of state, Ramiz Alia, an ideologue and politician, rather than to the more technocratic administrator Çarçani.

The political career of Adil Çarçani, Albania's last Stalinist prime minister, spanned the entire period of Communist rule in his country, which was inaugurated in 1944 with the departure of the German occupying forces and ended in chaos in 1991.

During all but four of those 47 years Çarçani held high office. But despite his presence in the highest echelons of the Communist hierarchy, he was never considered one of the strongmen of the Albanian leadership. Indeed, the lack of any perceived challenge from Çarçani was one of the main reasons for his political longevity at a time when Enver Hoxha, the paramount leader, periodically purged the leadership of potential rivals.

Like Hoxha and the majority of the future Communist ruling élite, Çarçani was a Tosk, a southern Albanian. His road to the top began, as in the case of almost all of his fellow-leaders, during the Second World War, when he joined the Communist Party within a year of its foundation in 1941. He served as a divisional commissar – or political commander – in the Communist guerrilla army.

In the decade after the war Çarçani's rise through the ranks was slow and unspectacular. It included stints as a deputy minister and minister of trade and industry. More importantly in a regime that was run not by the government but by the Communist Party – by then renamed the Albanian Workers' Party (AWP) – he joined the ranks of the ruling Politburo in 1956.

Nine years later he became deputy prime minister. His job was primarily to ensure that the economy continued to function somehow through the ideological twists and turns of Hoxha's foreign policy which brought first a rift with the Soviet Union in 1961 and then with China in 1978 – the two Communist giants that had successively underwritten Albania's economic development for three decades.

Çarçani had next to no experience in foreign affairs or security matters when he was catapulted into the post of

Known to many Albanians as "Tao-Tao", the name of an incompetent but harmless bear in a popular Japanese cartoon series, Çarçani battled ineffectively to arrest Albania's economic decline through the 1980s. In the late 1980s there was a period of cautious opening to the rest of the world to encourage trade; but it was too little, too late. Meanwhile, the revolutions of 1989 in much of Eastern Europe set an example that the more ruthlessly repressed Albanian population eventually followed from the end of 1990.

Following pro-democracy student demonstrations in December that year Çarçani was given an extra job as leader of the Democratic Front, the umbrella-group of Communist-controlled social organisations. He replaced the 70-year-old Nexhmije Hoxha – widow of the late dictator – who had resigned on grounds of her advanced age, to be succeeded, somewhat improbably, by Çarçani, who was then already 68 years old.

But age was not the only thing that began to count against Çarçani. He remained an orthodox Communist who could not cope with the changes unleashed in Albania. One of his last acts as a leader was to address a rally in February 1991 at which he denounced the toppling of Hoxha's giant statue in Tirana by pro-democracy demonstrators as "an ugly act which only fascists and the wild enemies of Albania could have committed".

Electoral defeat came for the AWP in March 1992 at the hands of the Democratic Party, led by Sali Berisha. Çarçani did not feel at home in Albania's new democratic environment. Worse was to come in 1994 when he was put on trial, along with Ramiz Alia, for abuse of power and was given a five-year suspended sentence. His poor state of health saved him from actual imprisonment.

During his final months Çarçani lived through dramatic changes in Albania – starting with the collapse of high-risk pyramid investment schemes and an uprising against Berisha's increasingly authoritarian administration. But by then the ailing Çarçani took no part in shaping Albania's turbulent political life. With the collapse of Communism he became little more than a relic of the past.

— Gabriel Partas



Çarçani: pliant

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

BIRTHS

BELL: To Kathleen (4), a sister, to Julie (16) Raines and Michael, a much-loved son, to Marie Ann Danjels, 9 May 1997. Many thanks to all who helped during pregnancy and at the birth.

LAURENCE: On 14 October 1997, to Rosanna (née Lloyd-Roberts) and Robert, a son, Hugh Jonathan Isaac, a brother for Charles, Catherine and Henry.

DEATHS

PELLING: On Tuesday 14 October in Cambridge, Henry Mathison Pelling, LIND, FBA, Fellow of St John's College, Cambridge, sometime College Lecturer in History, Emeritus Reader in Recent British History, Funeral Service on Wednesday 22 October at 11.30am in the Chapel of St John's College, Cambridge.

TEMPROS: Hector, born 3 September 1906, died 10 October 1997. Dearest Hector, you have been much loved and will be sorely missed.

THOMAS: Brian Frank Warren, died peacefully on 13 October. Much-loved husband of Ruth and loving father to Sue, Andrew and Kate. He will be greatly missed by his wife, children, grandchildren, family and friends. Funeral service at Canford Crematorium, Canford Lane, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol, at 2.30pm on Wednesday 22 October. Flowers to R. Davies & Son, 63 Westbury Hill, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol.

WORMALL: Hazel, beloved daughter of Joyce and the late Arthur, on 14 October 1997. Peacefully, at the Royal Marsden Hospital, after an illness bravely borne. Many thanks to all who helped care for her. Cremation at Kingston on 23 October at 11.40am. Donations to Macmillan Nurses, c/o C.R.S. Funeral Service, 177 King's Road, Kingston, KT2 5JG.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J. M. Brunt and Miss E. M. A. Otley. The engagement is announced between John, son of Dr Rod Brunt, of Bath, and Mrs Patricia Mitchell, elder daughter of Mr Tom Otley, of Marlborough, Wiltshire, and Mrs Kate Noble, of Bath. The marriage will take place in Sydney, Australia, on 8 November 1997.

Birthdays

Mr Stephen Bishop-Kovacevich, concert pianist, 57; Mr Harry Carpenter, journalist and boxing commentator, 72; Mr Sydney Chapman MP, 62; Mr Alexander Cooke, Honorary Consulting Physician, United Oxford Hospitals, 98; The Earl of Dalhousie, former Governor-General, Rhodesian Federation, 83; Mr Alan Garner, writer, 63; Sir Ralph Gibson, a former Lord Justice of Appeal, 75; The Right Rev Ronald Goodchild, Assistant Bishop, Exeter, 87; Mr Johnny Hayes, footballer, 63; Mrs Ann Jones, tennis player, 59; Lord Kilbracken, writer and journalist, 77; Mr Michael Lord MR, 39; Sir Cameron Mackintosh, producer of stage musicals, 51; Mr Arthur Miller, playwright, 82; Mr Bernard Taylor, former chief executive, Glaxo, 62; Sir Simon Tuckey, High Court judge, 56.

Anniversaries

Births: Nathan Field, actor and playwright, baptised 1587; John Wilkes, political reformer and jour-

nalist, 1727; Claude-Henri, Comte de Saint-Simon, economist and social reformer, 1760; Elinor Glyn, novelist, 1864; Bournemouth Karen Blizen (Isak Dinesen), writer, 1885; Nathaniel West (Nathan Wallestein Weinstein), novelist, 1903; Jean Arthur (Gladys Georgianna Greene), actress, 1905; Rita Hayworth (Margaret Carmen Casiano), actress, 1918; Montgomery Clift, actor, 1920. Deaths: Sir Philip Sidney, poet, soldier and courtier, died of septicaemia, 1586; Frédéric-François Chopin (Fryderyk Franciszek), composer, 1849. On this day, under the Treaty of Dunkirk, the city was sold by Charles II to the French, 1662; Charles II escaped from Cromwell's army across the English Channel, 1651; the republics of Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia were formally established, 1918; in the United States, Al Capone, bootlegger, was sentenced to 11 years in jail for income-tax evasion, 1931; the first nuclear power station in the world was opened at Calder Hall, 1956. Today is the Feast Day of St Asenios of Austrude, Saints Eilbert and Eilbertus, St Ignatius of Antioch, St John the Dwarf, St Norbert, St Rulf, St Seraphino and The Ursuline Martyrs of Valenciennes.

Synagogue services

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 5.45pm.

United Synagogue 0181-242 2263. Federation of Synagogues 0181-202 2263. Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues 0171-580 1663. Reform Synagogues of Great Britain 0181-349 4731. Spanish and Portuguese Jew Congregation 0171-239 2573. New London Synagogue 0181-232 1026.

Changing of the Guard

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

LAW REPORT: 17 OCTOBER 1997

The transfer of special waste was not by a 'carrier'

Where a company transferred special waste from the producer's premises to its own site for disposal, it was not a "carrier" within the terms of the Control of Pollution (Special Waste) Regulations 1980 since it was not transferring the waste to another person.

Shanks & McEwan (Southern Waste Services) Ltd v Environment Agency, Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Auld and Mr Justice Brian Smedley) 14 October 1997.

The Divisional Court allowed the appeal by way of case stated of Shanks & McEwan (Southern Waste Services Ltd) against their conviction by justices of two offences of unlawful failure as carriers of special waste to complete their part of a consignment note as required by regulation 4(5) of the Control of Pollution (Special Waste) Regulations 1980, contrary to regulation 16; and unlawful failure as such carriers to take reasonable measures to prevent the contravention by another of section 33 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, contrary to section 34(1)(a) of the Act.

David Lamming (Barker Gosses, Ipswich) for the appellants; Martin Collier (Legal Services Manager, Environment Agency, Peterborough) for the respondent.

Mr Justice Brian Smedley said that the appellants had been engaged by United Overseas Ltd ("UOL") to collect from their premises and to dispose of certain flammable waste material which, it was not disputed, fell within the definition of "special waste" in the 1980 Regulations.

UOL had not told the appellants that the waste was special waste, nor had they prepared a consignment note for the benefit of the carrier and the local regulatory authority as required for special waste by regulation 4(1).

The appellants' driver took the waste to one of the appellants' own disposal sites, which was not one to which special waste was normally delivered. However, a chemist employed by the appellants found that the waste was special waste and diverted it to

a properly licensed site. He notified the regulatory authority, and UOL later pleaded guilty to having failed to prepare the requisite consignment note, and to an offence contrary to section 34(1)(a) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, of having failed, as producer of the waste, to take reasonable measures to prevent the contravention by another of section 33 of the Act.

The appellants argued that although they were contracted to transfer the waste for disposal they were not the carriers of the waste. The phrase "the carrier" was defined in regulation 4(5) as "any person who transfers special waste from the premises at which it is produced to another person for disposal", and the appellants were transferring the waste not to another person but to their own disposal site.

They submitted that if there was a lacuna in the 1980 Regulations it was for Parliament or the Secretary of State, not the court, to amend them and fill the gap. That had in fact been done by the Special

Waste Regulations 1996 which had replaced the 1980 Regulations from 1 September 1996. Under those regulations the carrier was defined as a "person who collects the waste... and transports it to another place".

Those submissions were correct, and the justices had, accordingly, erred in convicting the appellants of the first offence.

Section 34 of the 1990 Act and the Code of Practice issued thereunder in 1991 applied to a variety of people concerned in various ways and stages with controlled waste. The duty imposed by section 34(1)(a) on, *inter alia*, the carrier, was to "take all such measures applicable to him in that capacity as are reasonable in the circumstances to prevent any contravention by any other person of section 33". Section 33 prohibited, *inter alia*, unlicensed disposal of waste.

The appellants argued that the chain of responsibility for waste was forward-looking, and that the duty on carriers of the waste

did not extend to the prevention of a contravention of section 33 by a person from whom they had received the waste, but to exclude from that duty a contravention by any persons who had had earlier control of or contact with the waste was a wholly artificial way to interpret the section. It was also argued that if no actual offence had been committed under section 33, then there could be no breach of section 34, but the section could not be interpreted in that way.

However, in the present case, no offence under section 33 had actually been committed because the appellants' chemist had been vigilant and had diverted the waste to a licensed site. In those circumstances one had to ask in what respect it was alleged that the appellants had unlawfully failed to take all reasonable measures to prevent any contravention by any other person of section 33. A conviction under section 34(1)(a) could not therefore be justified.

— Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

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FINANCIAL JOURNAL OF THE YEAR

BSkyB chief Chisholm makes £6.8m in a year

Sam Chisholm, the outgoing head of BSkyB, almost doubled his remuneration last year, taking home a total of £6.8m. As Cathy Newman reports, that makes him one of the highest paid executives of a UK quoted company.

Mr Chisholm, who is to step down at the end of the year due to poor health, made £5m by exercising 1.8 million phantom share options. He also received a bonus of £1.3m to add to his basic pay of £302,575.

Over the past two years, the ebullient BSkyB boss has earned a total of £10.7m. The money paid to Mr Chisholm is set to cause controversy with shareholders, particularly as the company's share price has underperformed in the last few months.

Other high pay awards in the media industry that have upset investors include WPP's chief executive, Martin Sorrell, who made £2.8m last year.

A BSkyB spokesman defended Mr Chisholm's pay package, saying it was closely linked to the performance of the company as 75 per cent of his salary last year derived from phantom share options.

It also emerged yesterday that BSkyB was poised to sign a pay-per-view film deal with Warner Brothers, the Hollywood studio which has just agreed terms with On Demand Management, a consortium of cable companies.

BSkyB is expected to clinch a deal with Warner and other Hollywood studios before the

end of the month, enabling its subscribers to pay to view specific films. The satellite broadcaster had originally hoped to tie up an exclusive deal with Warner, but it now looks set to share the film rights with the cable companies.

A BSkyB spokesman said: "BSkyB has signed pay-per-view deals with a significant number of studios, the majority of them for exclusive pay-per-view film rights."

BSkyB is certain to have negotiated an exclusive agreement with Twentieth Century Fox, which is owned by News Corporation. Rupert Murdoch's News Corp has a 40 per cent stake in BSkyB.

Meanwhile, cable industry sources said that On Demand—the group representing Telewest Communications, NTL, General Cable and Diamond Cable Communications—was close to agreement with two other studios, Sony, and Paramount.

In return for Hollywood film rights, the cable companies will be obliged to carry various "vanity channels" owned by the studios, which will take up valuable capacity on the analogue cable network.

As part of the Warner deal, for example, cable operators will have to offer subscribers CNN, owned by Warner, free of charge. BSkyB will not be faced with the same problem, as satellite subscribers who have a dish already get CNN for free.

The studios are likely to receive roughly half of the revenues from film pay-per-view.

Separately, General Cable announced yesterday that it was to take a £35m charge to reorganise the business and refocus on telephony. The company said it could not make

money from cable television because of the conditions imposed by programmers such as BSkyB. As a result, the company will in future only sell cable television packages to users of its telephone services.

David Miller, finance director of General, said: "We're chasing our tails trying to sell cable television as an end in itself. Although today we sell TV and telephone, tomorrow we will sell access through which you can buy pay-TV, near video-on-demand and so on."

Around 15 per cent of General's subscribers take cable television without the telephone service. As a result, Mr Miller said he expected the company's pay-TV penetration to fall.

Construction of the cable network will be frozen, General said, which would lead to around 50 redundancies out of a workforce of 1,500. Investment in analogue equipment will also cease, but the company expects to launch its digital TV service towards the end of next year.

In addition, the company is to raise its prices. New customers will have to pay £45 for basic and premium services. Existing subscribers will continue to be charged £38 a month for premium channels.

In a similar move to curb losses Telewest, the second largest UK cable company, cut 1,400 jobs last August and said it would delay the completion of its network for two years.

Mr Miller said General had notified BSkyB that it would be dropping Sky News. The service is to be replaced by the BBC's new 24-hour channel, although Mr Miller added that no concrete agreement with the BBC had yet been signed.

Outlook, page 25



Phantom share options pay off for Sam Chisholm, who almost doubled his remuneration last year

BT set to talk to MCI bid rivals

British Telecom looks set to start talks on the future of MCI, its US partner, with the two rival bidders seeking to buy the company.

Chris Godsmark, Business Correspondent, reports on BT's change of tactics after GTE confirmed a \$28bn all cash takeover approach for MCI.

BT is expected to ask MCI as early as today to lift a gagging clause in their merger agreement which prevents the two companies from discussing a link-up with rival suitors. A letter drafted by BT's advisers will ask MCI to drop the clause, a step which requires the formal agreement of the two companies.

The latest twist came after GTE, one of the largest US telephones companies, threw its hat into the takeover ring with a \$40 a share approach for MCI, the long distance giant. The GTE offer is some \$2bn lower than the \$30bn unsolicited for MCI launched out of the blue earlier this month by WorldCom. However, GTE's bid is in cash, whereas WorldCom is proposing to pay MCI investors entirely in shares.

BT declined to comment on its decision to lift the merger clause. However, the move will be seen by analysts as a clear sign that the UK group has admitted defeat in its attempt to buy MCI, but would be keen to join a three-way alliance of some sort with GTE.

MCI's board is expected to meet today to discuss the rival offers from WorldCom and GTE. Since the unsolicited approach by WorldCom on 1 October BT has insisted it cannot enter into discussions until MCI's board decided whether to recommend the bid to its shareholders.

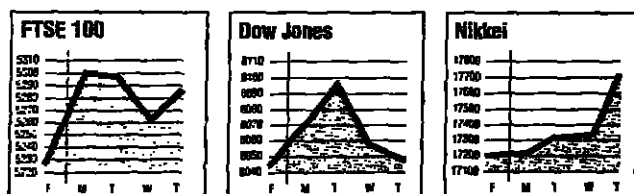
Like WorldCom, GTE also made clear yesterday that it was keen to maintain the partnership with BT, including the Concert joint venture in the international business communications market. In a conference call to US analysts last night Chuck Lee, GTE's chairman said the company was "preparing to enter discussions" with both BT and MCI and nothing would be ruled out.

Analysts emphasised that BT could determine MCI's future if it joined in discussions. Mark Lambert from Merrill Lynch said: "From having been marginalised, BT are back in a pivotal role. GTE want BT support because it would be blow to WorldCom's hopes. They've certainly got a better hand than they did yesterday."

BT shares soared 24.5p to 471.5p as dealers digested the prospect of the company receiving \$3.6bn in cash for its 20 per cent stake in MCI if the GTE bid went through.

But analysts cautioned against speculation that BT would mount a multi-billion pound share buy-back operation with the money. Jim Ross, from stockbrokers Hoare Govett said BT may want to buy a stake in a merged GTE-MCI. "The big missing piece in the jigsaw is how BT could get itself involved in a GTE-MCI deal. For shareholders that's the crucial question," he said.

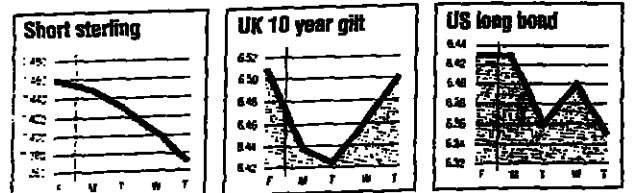
STOCK MARKETS



Indices

Index	Close	Change	Change(%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield(%)
FTSE 100	5287.90	24.20	0.46	5330.80	3900.40	3.30
FTSE 250	4963.80	28.00	0.57	4943.80	4348.10	3.24
FTSE 350	2546.40	12.10	0.48	2555.30	1948.20	3.26
FTSE All Share	2487.28	11.90	0.48	2492.41	1925.79	3.26
FTSE SmallCap	2405.3	11.80	0.49	2393.70	2128.40	3.54
FTSE Prevaling	1315.4	5.20	0.40	1348.50	1198.70	3.19
FTSE AIM	1010.6	1.20	0.12	1138.00	1003.80	0.96
Dow Jones	9008.6	-9.00	-0.11	8259.31	5972.73	1.86
Nikkei	17707.49	378.12	2.17	21612.30	17204.70	0.81
Hong Kong	13567.26	183.02	1.37	16673.27	12056.17	3.06
Dax	4118.22	-75.47	-1.80	4438.93	2856.25	1.84

INTEREST RATES



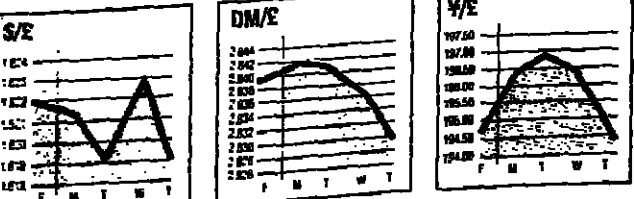
Money Market Rates

Index	3 month	1 yr	1 yr 6m	2 yr	3 yr	5 yr	10 yr	15 yr	20 yr
UK	7.35	1.35	1.35	1.35	1.35	1.35	1.35	1.35	1.35
US	5.77	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24
Japan	0.53	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03
Germany	3.62	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rises	Falls
BBC Inds 209.00 21.50 11.53	DPS Funn 570.00 30.50 5.08
Mediavest 245.50 20.50 9.11	MPI Funn 134.50 4.00 2.97
Q-Mark 2 829.00 0.78 0.09	Birt Energy 428.00 13.00 2.98
Capita Gp 313.50 24.00 8.29	Yen 120.10 0.15 0.13
Syngenta 61.50 4.50 7.89	CAP Radio 331 15.5 4.68

CURRENCIES



Pound

at 10pm	Change	Yr Ago
1.8190	-0.52c	1.5932
2 829.00	-0.78p	2.4374
194.44	-22.49	177.78
99.80	-0.50	88.70

Dollar

at 10pm	Change	Yr Ago
0.6177	+0.20p	0.6317
1.7485	+0.15p	1.5971
120.10	+0.15	112.10
104.50	-0.50	97.70

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	at 10pm	Change	Yr Ago
Brent Oil (\$)	19.52	0.25	24.25
Gold (\$)	327.05	0.40	382.15
Share (\$)	5.10	0.11	5.02
Base Rates	7.00	0.00	5.75

source: Bloomberg

Former Mercury chief bids for Rascal Telecom

Duncan Lewis, the former head of the Mercury phones company and senior Granada executive, is planning a return to the industry by launching bid to buy Rascal's telecommunications business.

Chris Godsmark, business correspondent, reports on the future of one of the UK's largest telecoms networks.

Rascal in effect raised a for-sale sign over its telecommunications business this summer when it appointed Merrill Lynch, the US investment bank, to hunt for potential partners or buyers. At the same time Goldman Sachs was called in to carry out a similar review of Rascal's data products division.

The deadline for bidders to enter the ring expired on Friday and Mr Lewis is understood to have put in a proposal, backed by Schroder Ventures, the venture capital arm of the merchant banking group.

Mr Lewis, who resigned as chief executive of Granada's media business last year, was not available for comment yesterday.

However, his plan is understood to be a management buy-in, where he would join with other former colleagues to buy Rascal Telecom outright.

If the Lewis bid is successful it would be a high profile comeback for the executive, who left Granada after a simmering row with Charles Allen, the group's chief executive and Gerry Robinson, chairman. Since his departure Mr Lewis has been working on business projects and, apparently, enjoying a career break.

There had been speculation that he would return to Cable & Wireless to run its combined telephones and cable TV empire. Instead Dick Brown, C&W's chief executive, chose another Granada executive, Graham Wallace for the top job.

Before joining Granada Mr Lewis, a former BT manager, moved to Cable & Wireless where he rose to become chief executive of Mercury, now part of C&W Communications. During his nine month reign at Mercury he slashed costs there, cutting some 2,000 jobs.

The Lewis bid is thought to offer several hundred million pounds for Rascal Telecom, which had sales of £260m last year and, with profits of £43m, accounted for most of Rascal's £70m earnings. In terms of

sales, Rascal Telecom is more than twice the size of Energis, the telecoms group which National Grid is to float this year with an estimated price tag of around £1bn.

It was Rascal's 1995 deal to buy British Rail's telecommunications operation, BRT, which catapulted Rascal Telecom into a leading player in the market. Apart from supplying Railtrack and train operating companies with phone services, it also has extensive private networks and claims to be the biggest contractor to the Government.

Rascal yesterday confirmed that the deadline for bids had closed, but insisted a sale was just not the only route to boosting the telecom's businesses prospects. "We're looking at all the options. Don't assume that there will be an outright sale. Don't assume anything," a spokesman said.

Sir Ernest Harrison, Rascal's long-standing chief executive, launched the Merrill Lynch review after a series of damaging profits warnings at Rascal which have dented his reputation as the leading defender of shareholder value.

At the time he indicated Rascal Telecom was coming under increasing competitive pressure from rival telecoms groups which would depress its profits in the future.

Break-up looms as white knights desert Redland

The chances of a white knight bid for Redland, the building materials company under siege from French group Lafarge, are looking more remote after some of the industry's biggest players indicated yesterday that they were not interested in buying the whole company. Though it is early days, Redland's best defence may be to break itself up, writes Sameena Ahmad.

Investors in Redland expecting a white knight to counter Lafarge's £1.7bn hostile offer, made on Monday, for the roofing and aggregates company, may be disappointed after comments yesterday from some heavyweight players in the building industry.

A source at Tarmac, the UK's largest aggregates company, said yesterday that it was "pretty unlikely" that the company would bid for any of Redland. "It is hard to see us as a contender," said the source.

Analysts said that Tarmac would probably have to issue paper to buy Redland's UK and US aggregates business, valued at around £1bn. The company has high net debt and is still

working through last year's asset swap with Wimpey.

RMC said yesterday that it had an "open mind" about Redland's aggregates business and was watching the situation "closely."

However a source at the company indicated that RBB, Redland's roofing business was not a consideration: "I doubt if we will extend in that direction. We already have our hands full."

Pioneer, the Australian building materials group also appears to have ruled out a full bid. Though the group has a roofing business in Australia and the USA and said that its strong balance sheet could fund expansion, Pioneer yesterday said that it did not consider roofing as its core business and that the German shareholding in RBB, 43.5 per cent owned by Braas, could be a problem.

"That is another element in the attractiveness or unattractiveness of Redland," said an insider.

Hanson is also believed to have ruled itself out as a full bidder. Blue Circle, the cement company whose name has also cropped up as a potential bidder is thought to feel that buying Redland, its customer, would alienate other cement users like Tarmac. Lafarge has two weeks from Monday to post its offer document.

Stock Exchange tramples on 'snake in the grass' deals

The Stock Exchange made final adjustments to its order-driven share trading system yesterday in preparation for Monday's launch. Tom Stevenson, financial editor, assesses the changes introduced after the mixed success of the system's dress rehearsals.

The Stock Exchange took a decisive step yesterday to ensure there is an orderly market when order-driven trading transforms share dealing in the City on

Monday. It said it would change the rules in a bid to stamp out so-called "snake in the grass" traders who have caused havoc in test runs of the new automated system by deliberately inputting orders at ridiculous prices.

A snake in the grass trade works by inputting a buy order for a stock at a very low price in the hope that a rival firm will make an error and accidentally input a matching sell order. The computer automatically deals when buy and sell orders match, regardless of how close to the prevailing market price the orders are.

In an attempt to counter that threat, the Stock Exchange said yesterday it would "treat as a potential regulatory abuse" the entry of an order that was more than 20 per cent away from the current market price unless it was entered with the prior approval of the Exchange.

Gavin Casey, the Exchange's chief executive, also moved to ease concerns that keyboard errors could lead to firms being exposed to much larger transactions than they expected. Starting on Monday, the order book will only accept orders for ten times the normal market size for any given share.

Mr Casey said the potential risk to member firms of putting in enormous orders by, for example, slipping in an

extra '0' far outweighed those occasions when a firm would want to input a very large order. He added that the limit was only an interim measure and said it would be kept under review.

The Exchange also warned yesterday of the dangers posed to firms of using "at best" trades where orders are placed with no restriction on the execution price that would be acceptable. It said firms should use "limit orders" to avoid having a trade executed at a disadvantageous price, even if it steered clear of a snake in the grass.

Yesterday's adjustments marked the final changes to the Stock Exchange's SETS order-driven trading

system, which from next week will offer an alternative to the quote-driven telephone-based system in force since Big Bang in 1986 did away with floor trading. Initially its will only apply to the FTSE 100 index of leading stocks but there are plans to roll it out to the next 250 shares as soon as possible.

All eyes will focus on the success of the automated trading project, which has tied 200 firms directly into the Stock Exchange and represents the biggest change to the way shares are traded in 11 years. The credibility of the Stock Exchange, tarnished by previous failures such as the ill-fated Taurus computer system, hangs in the balance.

WH Smith snubs Waterstone and announces its own break-up plan

Troubled retailer WH Smith has dealt a double blow to Tim Waterstone's restructuring proposals by rejecting his revised plans and announcing its own blueprint for the future. This includes demerging the Waterstone's bookselling business, selling Virgin-Our Price and revitalising the core high street chain. Nigel Cope, City Correspondent reports on an apparent change of heart.

WH Smith's plans for a break-up come just two months after Jeremy Hardie, the WH Smith chairman, ruled out such a course of action. At the time of the company's full year results in August he said: "We have no plans for a break-up... What you don't do is thrash about changing things."

However, he denied yesterday that there had been any volte face, saying that plans to reshape the Smiths portfolio had been under consideration for several months. "This is not the kind of thing you do on the hoof. It has been going on for a considerable period of time." He admitted that Mr Waterstone's intervention had acted as "a spur and a catalyst" that had pushed the board to act.

Mr Hardie said the Smith board had been unanimous in its rejection of Mr Waterstone's proposals, saying they were not in the best interest of shareholders. Mr Waterstone said he was "genuinely saddened" by his second rejection in a fortnight and that he had no plans to put his proposal to shareholders. However, he added that if shareholders thought after time that they supported his "vision" for WH Smith he would be willing to discuss his proposal again with the board.

WH Smith share rose 3.5p to 405.5p on the news, though the proposal met with a mixed reception from analysts. Nick Bubb

of Societe Generale Strauss Turnbull said: "It looks like Tim Waterstone is dead in the water. It was always obvious that Smith's would steal his best ideas and put them into practice themselves." However, another analyst described Smith's plans as "woolly" and "unfocused."

The key parts of the strategy are to demerge the Waterstone's business into a separate quoted company. This should be completed by next Spring with analysts putting a value of around £300m on the business.

The music operation including the Virgin-Our Price business and the Wall division in the US will be sold. Analysts said Virgin-Our Price could be worth around £150m with Virgin having options to buy it.

Smiths will then concentrate on three business, its core WH Smith chain which accounts for 30 per cent of sales and operating profits and which it hopes to revitalise; the cash-generative news distribution business; and the international and UK travel interests.



Looking to the future: WH Smith's finance director Beverley Hodson (left) and group chief executive Richard Handover at the branch in Holborn, London, yesterday
Photograph: John Lawrence

IN BRIEF

£5m pay-off at BZW boosts support for strike at Barclays

Support for today's 24-hour strike at Barclays Bank has grown dramatically since news of a rumoured £5m pay-off to Bill Harrison, departing chief executive of BZW, union leaders claimed yesterday. Thousands of staff at the bank are due to stage the stoppage in protest at a performance-related pay scheme which they argue will freeze the salaries of 25,000 employees. Union officials warned that the walkout - to be followed by another day-long stoppage on Monday - would close branches all over the country.

Officers of both the Banking Insurance and Finance Union and Barclays staff union UNIFI, which together claim a membership of 40,000, believe that some employees may choose to go sick instead of being seen to join the strike. This was a tactic employed by hundreds of cabin crew in a recent strike at British Airways. Management last night declared its confidence that most of its 2,000 branches would remain open, although the bank conceded that there would be an impact in some areas.

- Barrie Clement

BTR pays \$585m for US firm

BTR has made its first big acquisition since announcing its intention to concentrate on engineering and embark on the wholesale disposal of the rest of its businesses. It is paying \$585m (£361m) for Exide Electronics, a US supplier of uninterruptible power supply systems. Ian Strachan, chief executive of BTR said: "This acquisition of Exide Electronics represents a major step forward in our strategy to focus on higher-growth engineering businesses where we enjoy leadership positions. The deal should enhance earnings next year." However, the shares shed another 2p to 234.5p.

Ofgas warns of MMC inquiry

Household gas suppliers were threatened with a Monopolies and Mergers Commission investigation yesterday by the industry regulator, Clare Spottiswoode, if they failed to sign up to a tough new code to curb dubious doorstep sales tactics. The plans by Ofgas, the gas watchdog, would for the first time put a legal obligation on gas suppliers in the emerging competitive market to train staff properly and keep records of sales approaches to customers. The changes to companies' operating licences need support from 90 per cent of the industry, though British Gas last night signalled its support. Ms Spottiswoode said if 90 per cent of suppliers did not sign up, she would call in the MMC. "If it doesn't work we will undoubtedly take this to the MMC." The legal marketing curbs follow repeated concerns about doorstep sales practices in trial competition areas in the South of England.

Medeva shares rebound

Shares in Medeva recovered some of their recent losses yesterday after the drug company announced its drug for hepatitis works better than the competition. The shares, which have slumped from 330p since April on fears that its leading product for hyperactivity might be hit by competition, rose 9 per cent to 245.5p. On a trial of 90 patients, Hepagene achieved a 72 per cent success rate compared with 51 per cent for the best existing drug Engerix-B. Analysts said sales could reach £150m.

Rise in traffic at P&O

Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation said passenger volumes on its ferries rose by 12 per cent in the third quarter to 4.15 million, while freight traffic was up 18 per cent at 408,630 vehicles. Tourist vehicle traffic rose to 554,068 in the quarter from 452,183 a year earlier. P&O said ferry traffic in the quarter was "strong across all routes" and added that in the year to date, passenger traffic was up by 9 per cent, tourist vehicle by 13 per cent and freight traffic was up by 20 per cent.

McGraw-Hill to buy Micropal

The McGraw-Hill Companies, the financial services and publishing group, is to buy Micropal, the leading provider of mutual funds data. Micropal will be merged into Standard & Poor, the financial services arm of McGraw-Hill known for its credit rating services. The terms of the deal were not disclosed. Standard & Poor will combine Micropal's software and database expertise with its own analytical skills and distribution networks to provide "a one-stop shop global solution," according to Mark Adorian, Micropal's managing director. No job losses are imminent at Micropal.

Chilean spirits tax in dispute

The EU Commission said it would ask the World Trade Organisation to rule whether Chilean tax on spirits violates world trade rules. Imported whisky faces 70 per cent tax, vodka and other spirits 30 per cent, while the local Pisco spirit is only liable to 25 per cent tax, the Commission said. The EU recently won a similar dispute on discriminatory spirits tax rates in Japan and has also filed a complaint against Korea.

Pru sales grow world-wide

Prudential Corporation said sales from its businesses around the world continued to grow in the first nine months of 1997, with sales of single premium life, pension and investment products rising 14 per cent to £5.7bn and sales of regular premiums increasing 8 per cent to £406m. Excluding the impact of a strong pound, single premium sales rose 18 per cent and regular premiums 11 per cent.

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Hutchinson telecom

£500m windfall for BAT investors in Zurich merger

BAT Industries yesterday unveiled a £500m windfall for its shareholders from the planned merger of its financial services arm with Zurich Insurance of Switzerland, but warned investors they face a dividend cut next year. Lea Paterson reports on the break-up of another British conglomerate.

BAT Industries, the tobacco and financial services group which yesterday announced the appointment of former chancellor Kenneth Clarke as non-executive deputy chairman, will receive a £500m net cash payment from Zurich Insurance, the Swiss company which is merging with its financial services arm, BAFS.

BAFS owns UK insurers Eagle Star and Allied Dunbar, which yesterday lost its chief executive Steve Melcher in an "unrelated" departure. Allied also announced a further £78m provision in its third-quarter results to cover its liabilities in the pensions mis-selling scandal.

Following the merger with Zurich, BAT's tobacco arm will

float separately as British American Tobacco, headed by current chief executive Martin Broughton, taking the UK quoted tobacco sector to three. An imminent deal between BAT and either Gallaher or Imperial is expected by some analysts.

Zurich will also take on £800m, or around 20 per cent, of BAT's debt, the companies said in a joint statement yesterday. The new insurance giant, which will boast \$342m of funds under management, is to be called Zurich Financial Services Group (ZF Group) and will be managed by Rolf Hüppi, the head of Zurich Insurance.

BAT shares will be replaced by shares in both British American Tobacco, and Allied Zurich plc, which will hold 45 per cent of the ZF Group. Zurich Insurance shareholders will own shares in Zurich Allied AG, which will hold the remaining 55 per cent of the ZF Group.

"This is very good for BAT and an excellent deal for Zurich shareholders," said Trevor Moss, BAT analyst at Flemings, yesterday. BAT's share price rose immediately after the announcement, peaking at 619p. It closed at 596.5p, 4.5p down on the day as investors focused on comments from Lord Cairns, seen as preparing share-

holders for a dividend cut.

BAT's 1996 dividend of 26p would have been around 20 per cent lower under the proposed payout policies of ZF Group and British American Tobacco, the companies said.

The board of the ZF Group will be drawn from the boards of Allied Zurich plc and Zurich Allied AG. Mr Hüppi will chair both the board of the ZF Group and the board of Zurich Allied AG. Lord Cairns, currently BAT's chairman, will act as vice-chairman on ZF Group's board, vice-chairman of the board of Zurich Allied AG and chairman of the board of Allied Zurich plc. Mr Hüppi will be vice-chairman of Allied Zurich plc.

The newly formed British American Tobacco has a bright future, according to analysts. "There will be increased transparency for investors," said Mr Moss, who reckons this should buoy up the tobacco's company value. BAT is also well positioned in high growth markets such as Africa, the Middle East and Latin America.

On the financial services side, Zurich will be able to piggyback on the distribution network of Farmers, BAT's US insurer. Other areas of overlap include general insurance and reinsurance.



In the smoke: Kenneth Clarke, who is joining BAT as non-executive deputy chairman

CBI's concerns over Competition Bill dismissed

The Government has rejected most of the criticisms levelled at its Competition Bill by the Confederation of British Industry by pressing ahead with sweeping new powers to clamp down on cartels. Michael Harrison reports.

The Bill, published yesterday and due to receive its second reading in Parliament on 30 October, will give the Office of Fair Trading powers to fine companies 10 per cent of their turnover, forcibly enter premises unannounced and remove documents from firms suspected of operating cartels.

In addition, the legislation will introduce a blanket ban on abuse of dominant market positions by large companies and give consumers new rights to pursue and obtain damages against companies engaging in anti-competitive behaviour.

The CBI had condemned the legislation as "extreme" and draconian, warning it gave the OFT powers only paralleled by those that Customs officers can use to bust drug gangs.

The employers organisation had urged the Government to

limit fines to a maximum of £1m, make the test of abuse of dominant position much more specific and redraft the legislation so that consumer bodies could not appeal against decisions reached by the OFT.

But the Bill, in its final published form, contains few of the modifications called for by the CBI. The powers of the OFT have been slightly modified to prevent it launching surprise dawn raids and removing original documents without a warrant issued by a magistrate.

The Bill also goes some way to avoiding the "double jeopardy" of firms having to seek approval for some business agreements from competition authorities in both Brussels and London.

However, the Bill contains none of the fundamental changes sought by the business community. Officials said that the director-general of Fair Trading, John Bridgeman, would have to issue detailed guidelines on how the system of fines would operate and how it would assess abuse of a dominant position.

But the DTI refused to water down the OFT's powers arguing that the legislation was designed to act as a deterrent. Outlook, page 25

PSBR on target but strong pound savages industry confidence

Government borrowing this year is likely to meet Gordon Brown's ambitious target, the latest figures suggest. Meanwhile, businesses pleaded for relief from the Bank of England in the form of no more increases in interest rates, reports Diane Coyle, Economics Editor.

Days after the Chancellor found an extra £300m for the crisis-ridden NHS, new figures yesterday showed that the public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR) jumped to £3.1bn last month, far more than expected. But City experts shrugged off the September increase as the result of special factors. Most highlighted instead the surprisingly low growth in public sector spending.

"Despite slightly disappointing September figures, the underlying trend in the PSBR continues to show a fairly spectacular improvement from a year ago as spending falls short," said Adam Cole, an economist at City firm James Capel.

Separately, the quarterly survey of business from the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) highlighted the gap between the fortunes of industry and services. The strong pound has "savaged" manufacturing export activity, the BCC said, taking confidence to a five-year low. Both export orders and overseas sales had deteriorated in the latest quarter.

"We don't want to see further increases in interest rates which would fuel further rises in sterling. That's the critical

point," said Ian Peters, deputy director-general of the BCC.

On the other hand, services reported the highest levels of optimism since the late 1980s and record levels of investment and employment. Their one problem was the worst recruitment difficulties this decade.

David Richardson, the BCC president, indicated that the Government should have raised taxes on consumers to reduce the need for higher interest rates to slow down the economy. Yet yesterday's PSBR figures showed that even without extra taxes government borrowing is shrinking fast.

The Government has borrowed £8.6bn since 1 April, the start of the financial year, compared with £15.7bn at the same stage last financial year. Excluding privatisation receipts the cumulative total has shrunk from £19.4bn to £10.4bn. Analysts all said Mr Brown would at worst meet this year's £10.9bn target, and could do even better.

Central government expenditure fell sharply last month. Departmental spending picked up modestly during the month, taking it to a level just over 1 per cent higher than a year earlier. Not only is this well within the Treasury's forecast for annual spending growth of 1.7 per cent, but expenditure during the first six months of the year also remains 1 per cent below the previous year's level.

The comparison has been helped by some pre-election accounting which classed the sale of Ministry of Defence housing and the student loan book as negative spending. However, rapidly falling unemployment and very restricted growth in public sector pay has helped keep the lid on spending.

Bank may seek fraud statements

The Bank of England is considering forcing senior directors of banks to sign an annual statement confirming that adequate systems and controls are in place to prevent securities fraud within their organisations. The proposal is the latest in a series of suggestions from regulators designed to prevent the sort of systematic fraud that caused the collapse of Barings in 1995.

The idea, which was floated in an essay in the Bank's latest 'Financial Stability Review', would see the chief executive and chief financial officer of banks promising that Banking Act requirements and policy guidelines had been complied with. The proposal would closely mirror a system in New Zealand where false or misleading disclosure statements incur potentially severe civil and criminal penalties.

The idea of the disclosure statement comes after a similar controversial proposal by the Securities and Futures Authority. It suggested a new rule imposing a direct duty on senior executive officers to take all reasonable steps to ensure their firm's employees act in a way which avoids seriously damaging its reputation.

That proposal caused a storm of protest because it appeared to imply a reversal of the burden of proof. The SFA subsequently modified the suggestion so that the onus of proving misconduct remained with the regulator, as at present.

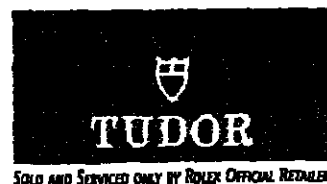
The Securities and Investments Board also put out a consultative paper in July on the responsibilities of senior managers. SIB suggested that every firm should have to prepare a statement setting out its management structure and defining where responsibilities rested.

— Tom Stevenson

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Source: PC Today

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY SAMEENA AHMAD

WH Smith board under pressure

Shareholders in WH Smith must wonder what has hit them in the last couple of weeks. After years of inaction coupled with a pathetic underperformance, their company has suddenly been caught up in a whirlwind of activity. Tim Waterstone deserves some credit for acting as catalyst for Smith's demerger plans even if Jeremy Hardie, Smith's chairman, insists a break-up was being considered all along.

There is no doubt that Mr Waterstone's plans, which included a high level of debt and the sale of the Virgin-Our Price and US businesses, had fundamental weaknesses. But the Smith plan has risks too. On the plus side it will mean a relatively unleveraged vehicle and the possibility of the proceeds of disposals such as Virgin Our Price and The Wall music operation in America being returned to shareholders.

But the real risk is in the demerger of Waterstone's. For a start there is the risk of margin erosion as the buying power will be reduced and costs may be higher. Second, an independent Waterstone's would surely be a sitting duck for takeover. And if it fell to a mass-market player like Barnes & Noble of the US, it could be "dumbed down" and taken into head-on competition with Smith. However, with Waterstone's potentially valued at £30m or 100p per share, buying it would be a big leap for Barnes & Noble which would presumably have to pay a premium as well.

As ever, much depends on whether Smith can revitalise its core chain. Here it does seem as if Smith's management has stolen some of Waterstone's ideas. The decision to focus more on books, stationery and magazines does make sense, as does keeping the music and video operation which still has a sizeable market share.

Whoever had the ideas first matters little to shareholders who stand to benefit anyway. Having given an almighty prod by Mr Waterstone and his own shareholders, Richard Handover and co will be under pressure to deliver shareholder value.

If they fail, it will not be long before someone else has another tilt at it - possibly hostile next time. With analysts forecasting full-year profits of £140m,

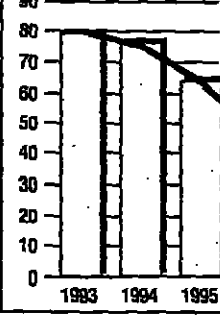
WH Smith: At a glance

Market value: £1.15bn, share price 405.5p (+3.5p)

Five-year record	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Turnover (£bn)	2.31	2.44	2.58	2.83	2.76
Pre-tax profits (£m)	85.2	95.8	103.1	110.4	118.6
Earnings per share (p)	31.1	19.9	23.9	(71.4)	8.6
Dividends per share (p)	14.2	15.2	16.2	17.2	18.2

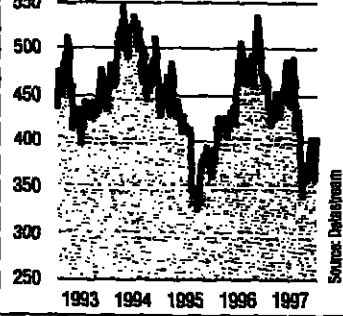
WH Smith Retail

operating profit £m and margin



Share price

pence



Smith shares trade on a forward multiple of just 12. That seems cheap. After putting up with all the shenanigans of the last few years, Smith's shareholders should not sell now.

Uncomfortable time for DFS

Life is looking less than cushy for DFS, the fast-growing sofa retailer. The market certainly frowned on yesterday's full-year figures. Despite overall sales growth of 38 per cent to £254m in the year to August, DFS reported just 2 per cent like-for-like sales growth. Only two years ago the company was turning in underlying sales growth of over 8 per cent. Operating margins in the year were also sharply down, falling from 15.8 per cent to 14.6 per cent, below the 15 per cent average for the furniture industry. DFS's share price fell 30.5p to 570p.

The company's rapid expansion southwards in the face of rising advertising and land costs is putting pressure on margins. Last year DFS opened six stores, taking the total to 44. Another 15 to 20 are planned over the next three

years. Land costs are soaring, particularly in London where the group is expanding fast. DFS also spent some £1m on prime-time television advertising on LWT and Carlton in the year to persuade shoppers in the South that there is an alternative to Ikea for sofas.

Meanwhile, demand is not what it should be. Sir Graham Kirkham, the chairman, said the company had seen few benefits of building society windfalls. The hot weather in August also apparently discouraged furniture shopping. A glance around the industry shows that DFS is not the only one struggling. Maples has gone into receivership and Airspring is having a rotten time. The merger of H&C and Kingsbury may also increase pressure on DFS and Ikea remains a strong competitor in London.

There is no doubt that DFS is a quality player. Manufacturing on demand has meant stock levels at the group are falling, despite a 15 per cent increase in space, an impressive achievement.

However, the group's quality has long been reflected in the company's steep price-earnings multiple and the shares have marked time since hitting a 651p high at the start of the year.

House broker NatWest Securities has reduced profit estimates next year from £47.5m to £45m. That puts DFS's shares on a forward earnings ratio of 20 times. High enough.

Ultraframe set for listing

At first glance Ultraframe, the biggest conservatory roof maker in the UK which is coming to the market next week, looks like a decent investment. It has a solid financial track record and a strong position in a niche market. Demand for its products should show a healthy rate of growth over the next few years thanks to the continuing rise in the housing market, with new homeowners more tempted to splash out on an extension.

It is also moving into the higher margin commercial market rather than relying solely on domestic purchases. New products used in anything from fancy new buildings to swimming pools are also doing well.

But while its short-term future looks assured, Ultraframe's profit growth could well begin to slow in a few years. It has already cornered around 35 per cent of the UK conservatory market which limits its ability to expand over here. And demand for conservatories will fall if the fickle housing market takes a tumble.

Ultraframe's fortunes will then hinge on its overseas expansion plans. It hopes to take a large chunk of the US and Far Eastern market but, as always, competition is fierce and success is far from guaranteed.

John Lancaster, the group's founder, and his family have also sold a huge chunk of shares, which should send out some warning bells to investors.

Ultraframe will be valued at £136.4m, putting the shares on a historical p/e of 15.8 for the year to September. A small discount to the building materials sector. Ultraframe's placing has certainly whipped up plenty of interest from institutions, which should ensure the shares get off to a decent start. But investors should be wary of holding the shares in the long-term until the group shows evidence it can crack overseas markets.

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

JOHN WILLCOCK



Forget the EMU bust-up between Tony Blair and Gordon Brown. I can reveal that the real rift in New Labour lies between Nigel Griffiths MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Competition and Consumer Affairs, and Anstie Mitchell, the maverick MP for Great Grimsby.

On Wednesday night Mr Griffiths delivered the first ever Bernard Phillips Memorial Lecture to the Insolvency Practitioners Association (IPA), the trade body for Britain's receivers, gathered in the Great Hall of Grays Inn, central London.

Mr Griffiths was just launching into his plans for strengthening the DTT's powers to disqualify rogue directors when he mentioned Mr Mitchell, a former TV journalist who has earned a waspish reputation as a critic of the insolvency and accountancy professions since entering Parliament.

"I know we all have a soft spot for Austin," said the pugnacious Minister. "It's a bog in the north of Scotland."

How the gathered receivers laughed. Amongst them was the president of the IPA and host of the evening, David Sapte, who was recently appointed receiver to *Sunday Business*. Tom Rubythorn's failed venture. Also there was Chris Swinson, deputy president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales, and possibly the largest man in a suit I have ever seen; and Ian Bond, a senior insolvency partner with Coopers & Lybrand who is a fortnight away from retirement.

Mr Bond says that he has somehow fallen into the role of marriage broker for professional bodies. He is currently trying to negotiate a merger between two insurance associations, egos permitting. Perhaps he should turn his attention closer to home. As Mr Sapte pointed out, the insolvency profession, which has only 1,900 licensed members in the UK, has no less than nine self-regulating bodies.

If Manchester-based car parts maker Turner & Newell does succumb to Federal Mogul's bid, then T&N's chairman Sir Colin Hope better learn some new tricks. The Americans, led by Fed's chairman and chief executive officer

Dick Snell, want Sir Colin to be an "international adviser" to the newly merged group. Sir Colin himself insisted yesterday that: "I don't want to play second fiddle to Dick Snell." Some scope for friction there, I think.

Mr Snell's company really goes in for all that inspirational touchy-feely stuff. Its slogan is "BHAG: \$10bn by 2002." Translated into English, this means it's "Big Hairy Audacious Goal" is to increase in size by five times by the year 2002. It also aims to achieve "Positive EVA", or "Economic Value Added".

It will be fascinating to see whether the lads on T&N's shop floor in Manchester will appreciate Fed's "Core Values: We are driven toward mastery in all we do."

There have to be some compensations for all those hundreds of Labour MPs who haven't been invited to join the Government. Stuart Bell, MP for Middlesbrough, is filling in the odd day each month with accountancy giant Ernst & Young, which has just hired him as a "special adviser".

E&Y senior partner Nick Laid is delighted. Mr Bell's "knowledge and experience on a range of subjects affecting the economy and businesses will be a great asset to the firm and our clients," says Mr Laid. But how will Mr Bell get on with the firm's other two Parliamentary advisers? Step forward Christopher Chope, Conservative MP for Middlesbrough, and former Tory Minister David Mellor.

Mr Mellor, an E&Y spokesman tells me, "adds a dimension we don't have ourselves." I hope this doesn't have anything to do with wearing Chelsea football shirts to bed...

A former *Independent* journalist has popped up as the managing director of Europe's first online auction house. Tim Jackson, who also used to pen the odd word for the *Economist*, is heading up the launch of Quixell, which offers "the thrill of the auction house from the comfort of your PC."

Tim explains: "(The company) will enable you to buy computers and software using your credit card over the World Wide Web. The main point is that the customer sets the price."

All you have to do is key into Quixell's website and choose a product you want from its catalogue. When the relevant product is auctioned you enter your bid by phone. An auction can last from three to seven days, then if you're successful you get the product shipped to you for an average postal cost of under £3, says Tim.

"Typically we will be selling stuff at well under half the high street price," he says. Private sellers can also find their old computers and software via Quixell free of charge, he adds.

Tim's four collaborators on the project include Alan Skeat, the company's technical expert who has worked for Credit Suisse First Boston and DE Shaw Securities.

A British head-hunting firm, Goddard Kay Rogers, is merging with an American equivalent, Pendleton James Associates, which has American Presidential connections. Mr Pendleton "Pete" James is a former election adviser to both Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan.

Foreign Exchange Rates

Country	Sterling	Dollar	Spot	1 month	3 month	D-Mark	Spot	1 month	3 month
UK	100.00	1.63	1.63	1.63	1.63	100.00	1.63	1.63	1.63
France	20.10	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	100.00	1.36	1.36	1.36
Germany	16.56	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	100.00	1.36	1.36	1.36
Italy	136.48	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	100.00	1.36	1.36	1.36
Spain	166.37	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	100.00	1.36	1.36	1.36
Japan	163.26	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	100.00	1.36	1.36	1.36
Switzerland	1.48	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	100.00	1.36	1.36	1.36
Canada	70.87	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	100.00	1.36	1.36	1.36
Australia	1.54	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	100.00	1.36	1.36	1.36
New Zealand	2.20	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	100.00	1.36	1.36	1.36
South Africa	12.26	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	100.00	1.36	1.36	1.36
India	47.84	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	100.00	1.36	1.36	1.36
Indonesia	1340.75	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	100.00	1.36	1.36	1.36
Malaysia	3.76	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	100.00	1.36	1.36	1.36
Singapore	2.46	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	100.00	1.36	1.36	1.36
Thailand	50.34	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	100.00	1.36	1.36	1.36
Philippines	48.34	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	100.00	1.36	1.36	1.36
South Korea	177.80	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	100.00	1.36	1.36	1.36
Taiwan	24.63	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	100.00	1.36	1.36	1.36
Hong Kong	7.76	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	100.00	1.36	1.36	1.36
China	8.26	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	100.00	1.36	1.36	1.36
India	47.84	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	100.00	1.36	1.36	1.36
Indonesia	1340.75	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	100.00	1.36	1.36	1.36
Malaysia	3.76	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	100.00	1.36	1.36	1.36
Singapore	2.46	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	100.00	1.36	1.36	1.36
Thailand	50.34	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	100.00	1.36	1.36	1.36
Philippines	48.34	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	100.00	1.36	1.36	1.36
South Korea	177.80	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	100.00	1.36	1.36	1.36
Taiwan	24.63	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	100.00	1.36	1.36	1.36
Hong Kong	7.76	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	100.00	1.36	1.36	1.36
China	8.26	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	100.00	1.36	1.36	1.36

Other Spot Rates

Country	Sterling	Dollar	Spot	1 month	3 month
Argentina	16.83	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36
Brazil	17.90	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36
Canada	70.87	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36
China	8.26	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36
Czech Rep	20.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36
Egypt	54.90	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36
Greece	340.75	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36
Hungary	20.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36
India	47.84	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36
Indonesia	1340.75	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36
Kuwait	4.14	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36
Nigeria	31.89	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36
UAE	3.67	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36

Latest Unit Trust Prices

Fund	Unit Price	Fund	Unit Price	Fund	Unit Price
ABF Growth Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF Growth Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF Growth Trust Ltd	1.00
ABF Income Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF Income Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF Income Trust Ltd	1.00
ABF Property Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF Property Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF Property Trust Ltd	1.00
ABF World Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF World Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF World Trust Ltd	1.00
ABF Asia Pacific Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF Asia Pacific Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF Asia Pacific Trust Ltd	1.00
ABF Europe Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF Europe Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF Europe Trust Ltd	1.00
ABF US Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF US Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF US Trust Ltd	1.00
ABF Japan Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF Japan Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF Japan Trust Ltd	1.00
ABF Australia Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF Australia Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF Australia Trust Ltd	1.00
ABF New Zealand Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF New Zealand Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF New Zealand Trust Ltd	1.00
ABF South Africa Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF South Africa Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF South Africa Trust Ltd	1.00
ABF India Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF India Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF India Trust Ltd	1.00
ABF Indonesia Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF Indonesia Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF Indonesia Trust Ltd	1.00
ABF Malaysia Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF Malaysia Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF Malaysia Trust Ltd	1.00
ABF Singapore Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF Singapore Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF Singapore Trust Ltd	1.00
ABF Thailand Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF Thailand Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF Thailand Trust Ltd	1.00
ABF Philippines Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF Philippines Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF Philippines Trust Ltd	1.00
ABF South Korea Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF South Korea Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF South Korea Trust Ltd	1.00
ABF Taiwan Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF Taiwan Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF Taiwan Trust Ltd	1.00
ABF Hong Kong Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF Hong Kong Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF Hong Kong Trust Ltd	1.00
ABF China Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF China Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF China Trust Ltd	1.00
ABF India Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF India Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF India Trust Ltd	1.00
ABF Indonesia Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF Indonesia Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF Indonesia Trust Ltd	1.00
ABF Malaysia Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF Malaysia Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF Malaysia Trust Ltd	1.00
ABF Singapore Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF Singapore Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF Singapore Trust Ltd	1.00
ABF Thailand Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF Thailand Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF Thailand Trust Ltd	1.00
ABF Philippines Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF Philippines Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF Philippines Trust Ltd	1.00
ABF South Korea Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF South Korea Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF South Korea Trust Ltd	1.00
ABF Taiwan Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF Taiwan Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF Taiwan Trust Ltd	1.00
ABF Hong Kong Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF Hong Kong Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF Hong Kong Trust Ltd	1.00
ABF China Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF China Trust Ltd	1.00	ABF China Trust Ltd	1.00

Interest Rates

UK	Germany	US	Japan	
700%	250%	850%	050%	
France	Lombard	Discount	Belgium	
330%	Canada	Fed Funds	050%	27%
Italy	Prime	52%	Central	330%
82%	Denmark	Sweden	Discount	
Netherlands	350%	Repo(Ave)	Lombard	363%
Spain	Discount			

Bond Yields										
Country	3 mth	chg	1 yr	chg	2 yr	chg	5 yr	chg	10 yr	chg
Australia	4.85	0.00	4.80	0.02	5.15	0.03	5.78	-.01	6.31	-.02
Belgium	4.01	0.22	4.35	0.02	4.58	0.10	5.25	0.08	5.78	-.02
Canada	3.50	0.01	4.20	0.05	4.48	0.00	5.00	0.07	5.72	-.02
France	4.56	0.04	4.80	0.05	4.78	0.07	5.37	-.07	5.92	0.05
Germany	4.00	0.00	3.98	0.04	4.00	0.06	5.07	0.07	5.70	0.05
Italy	3.66	0.03	4.16	0.05	4.51	0.01	5.07	0.07	5.87	0.05
Japan	4.58	0.01	4.85	0.05	5.25	0.03	5.70	0.06	6.35	0.05
Spain	4.44	0.00	0.47	0.01	0.88	0.01	1.24	0.02	2.01	0.02
Sweden	3.66	0.03	4.16	0.05	4.51	0.06	5.21	0.08	5.84	0.05
Switzerland	4.58	0.01	4.85	0.05	5.04	0.07	5.61	0.07	6.18	0.05
UK	4.15	0.00	4.57	0.00	5.01	0.11	5.92	0.13	6.33	0.11
US	4.88	0.00	4.80	0.01	5.15	0.03	5.78	0.05	6.35	0.05
Yield	4.69	0.00	5.00	0.05	5.27	0.09	5.97	0.07	6.30	0.04
UK	4.92	0.03	5.18	-.03	5.80	-.03	5.97	-.04	6.30	-.04

FOOTBALL

Violence by
Boro fans
condemned

Sunderland's chief executive, John Fickling, has criticised Middlesbrough fans who attacked the Sunderland team coach after Wednesday's Coca-Cola Cup third-round tie at the Riverside Stadium.

As the Sunderland coach approached the A19 out of town it was attacked with stones and lumps of concrete, which left many windows and the windscreen of the coach shattered. Fickling said: "We are very, very shocked at the violence and magnitude of the attack on the Sunderland team bus last night. Someone could very easily have been seriously injured."

Middlesbrough won the North-east derby 2-0 and now face Bolton Wanderers at home in the next round.

Gianluca Vialli has vowed never to lose his control again after his first red card in English football. Chelsea's veteran Italian striker lashed out with his elbow against Blackburn's Swiss defender, Stéphane Henchoz, during Wednesday's Coca-Cola tie at Stamford Bridge. Despite finishing with 10 men, Chelsea won 4-1 on penalties after a 1-1 draw. "I deserved to go," Vialli said. "I used my elbows and that is not acceptable. At my age I should know better, and it will not happen again. Now I have to wait to see what my punishment is."

Ruud Gullit, Chelsea's player-manager, has ruled out an immediate move into the transfer market to replace Gustavo Poyet, the Uruguayan midfielder who will miss the rest of the season after snapping his cruciate ligaments on Wednesday. "I have a big squad and loads of players coming back from injury, so I still have enough options," he said.

Coca-Cola Cup Fourth-round draw: Luton v Reading, Middlesbrough v Bolton, Chelsea v Southampton, Derby v Newcastle, West Ham v Walsley, Liverpool v Gillingham, Arsenal v Coventry, Oxford v Ipswich. (Kicks to be played week commencing 17 November.)



Back on his feet: Paul Gascoigne's display against Italy has alerted Premiership clubs Photograph: Jasper Juinen/Reuters

Two sides to the
Gascoigne story

Paul Gascoigne could be on his way back south of the border. Phil Shaw questions whether the England midfielder could still hack it consistently in the Premiership.

Paul Gascoigne's display in Rome last Saturday clearly revived Premiership interest in the man-child who was once the English game's most coveted talent. It may not be too cynical to suggest that it also presented a window of opportunity for Rangers to recoup their money on a player whose impact has been less than Olympian this season.

The admission by Rangers' chairman, David Murray, that they could be ready to listen to offers provided coded confirmation that the Scottish champions have decided the moment is right to sell Gascoigne.

South of the border, however, his stock is higher than at any time since his last game for an English club. That was the 1991 FA Cup final, in which his contribution to Tottenham's success was curtailed by a serious injury sustained in the act of scything into a Nottingham Forest player.

The evidence of his most recent visit to Wembley, for the 4-0 rout of Moldova, and of the crucial draw with Italy which followed suggested the 30-year-old Georgie was back to, or at least approaching, his best.

A more wide-ranging appraisal indicates that Aston Villa, Spurs, Crystal Palace and other potential purchasers might be playing with fire in a fireworks factory. Now in his third season with Rangers, having extended his contract during the summer, Gascoigne has failed to exert the influence that marked his first two years

and remains troubled by temperamental problems.

When he arrived in Glasgow for £4.2m in 1995, following two fitful campaigns with Lazio, there were question marks against his ability to maintain his physical and mental well-being in the frenzied, attritional Scottish game. The behavioural blips have been mostly minor, such as the time he butted an opponent in the stomach or brandished the yellow card at the referee.

If the beating he inflicted on his wife, Cheryl, was symptomatic of a much darker malaise, the penultimate game of his first Rangers campaign offered compelling evidence as to why the club were prepared to stand by their man. Gascoigne scored a stunning hat-trick against Aberdeen to clinch the title for an institution obsessed with equalling Celtic's nine consecutive championships, such feats overrode other considerations.

Including, it seemed, Rangers' wretched showing in Europe. In that first year at Ibrox, when he could not inspire his new team to a single victory in six Champions' League fixtures, Gascoigne was sent off at Dortmund. Last year, when they won one and lost five, he took an even earlier bath in Amsterdam against Ajax.

This season, as they continued to get knocked out of two Continental cups in a month, he came perilously close to an unenviable hat-trick. A reckless tackle on a Gothenburg player had the referee reaching for red, only to have second thoughts as Gascoigne helped up his victim.

Nor has he imposed himself on the domestic front in the way Murray and his manager, Walter Smith, might have hoped during the absence through illness of Rangers' one truly world-class player, Michael Laudrup. Only once, when he scored with an exquisite curling free-kick to help turn a

3-1 deficit into a 4-3 win at Hibernian, has his input borne out the impression he made against little Moldova.

Whether Rangers really wanted to tie him to the club or were seeking to insure against his leaving as a free agent next year under the Bosman ruling must now be open to question. Of course it could be that he is no longer stimulated by the Scottish scene; John Collins and Pierre van Hooijdonk are among those who have left complaining about the boredom factor in playing certain clubs as many as five or six times a season.

Amid all the midfield drones in modern-day football, an old-fashioned playmaker who can pass a ball as accurately and imaginatively as he can should always be an asset. More to the point, his mentor figure, Glenn Hoddle, has reportedly advised him to return in order to hone his skills for next year's World Cup finals.

But there must be some doubt as to whether Gascoigne, even in his new slim-line image, could hack it consistently in the foreigner-enhanced Premiership. In the four high-intensity club games he played prior to Rome, against IFK Gothenburg and Strasbourg, he was unable to impose his skills.

Instead of enhancing his claims to play alongside Paul Ince and David Batty at the heart of the national side, exposure to the greater depth of quality in England could arguably undermine them.

And if it is so hard for Gascoigne to live in Scotland with the tabloid intrusion of which he often complains, a trifle richly, it will be intriguing to see how those who are willing to pay Rangers' £4m asking price plus a king's ransom in wages propose to protect him from the paparazzi in the capital or the Second City.

NON-LEAGUE NOTEBOOK

Financial crisis threatens Hereford's future

When Hereford United were relegated from the Football League in May, they were hoping to follow in the footsteps of Lincoln City and Colchester United, who both won promotion from the GM Vauxhall Conference at the first attempt.

Instead, to their fans' horror, they are in danger of emulating Newport County, who suffered a financial collapse following the drop out of the League in 1988 and were unable to complete their first season in the "fifth division."

A fans' forum this week was shocked to be told that players and administrative staff had not been paid for a month. Last night the supporters were given the chance to help United, when another public meeting was held to try to secure

financial support for the beleaguered Edgar Street club.

Peter Hill, the Hereford chairman, has blamed a number of factors for his club's plight. "At the end of last season we knew we needed to find between £750,000 and £900,000," he said yesterday. "Then we discovered that we were getting only 50 per cent of the Football League's television money - we were expecting 100 per cent in our first season outside the League. Then a transfer tribunal priced Dean Smith at £42,500 - we were expecting at least £150,000 from Leyton Orient. Then the bank reduced our overdraft limit."

It got worse. Hereford need an average gate of 5,000 to break even - and crowds are down to 2,000. "There are no

Al Fayeds here," Hill said. "I'm just a normal football director."

Hereford hope to move to a new stadium by the end of the century, but they will not net all the proceeds of the sale of Edgar Street because the ground is council-owned. They have, however, had a loan of £500,000 to keep them going from the property developers Bristol Stadium Group, from whom they are now seeking a further loan. Their bank has also agreed to pay the wage bill this week.

Hereford still intend to maintain a full-time playing staff this term, and Smith is hoping to bring up to five new directors on board soon. "There is some light at the end of the tunnel," he said. - *Rupert Metcalf*

Kevin Keegan says his greatest regret about leaving Tyneside was that he never told the fans why.

Derrick Whyte heard Newcastle's former manager talk yesterday about life at St James' Park.

When Kevin Keegan left Newcastle in January his only explanation came in a brief statement in which he said that he had taken the club as far as he felt he could.

It has since emerged, however, that the former England striker, now Fulham's chief operating officer, felt forced out

by the money men who gave him an ultimatum to sign a new two-year deal or leave the club.

Yesterday, speaking at the official launch of his autobiography, Keegan admitted he wished he had handled his departure better. In particular he regretted not having told the club's supporters why he was walking out.

"Looking back I maybe should have done what I did when I quit the club as a player back in the 1980s," he said.

"Then we announced that I was going on my birthday in February and that I would retire at the end of the season. That was the way we handled things then. We didn't keep it quiet but opened everything up to the fans."

"As a manager I did it when we sold Andy Cole. I went down

the steps to tell them why we were selling him when we could have sneaked out the back door. I just wish that I had done that and let them know in advance that I was going to go at the end of the season."

"Then I could have helped in finding the new manager, although Kenny Dalglish would have been my first choice by a million miles in any case. But I do regret what happened."

Keegan added that the response from Newcastle fans since the serialisation of his book had been overwhelmingly positive.

"Most of them have written to me thanking me for the job I did and wishing me good luck at Fulham," Keegan said.

"That's the response I expected because they know how hard we worked as a team to

bring the club to where we left it. When I came in and brought Terry McDermott in with me, it really was a sleeping giant, on the verge of relegation."

"Sir John Hall said the club would probably fold if we went down, although I don't think the fans would have allowed that. But we took it on from there and went on to challenge the best clubs in the Premiership and brought in players the fans would only have dreamed of having."

However Keegan's relationship with Sir John appears to have been fatally breached by his departure.

"I spoke to him once, on the phone, six weeks after I left and he said we'd go out for a meal when I came back home," said Keegan, who went to Florida in the days after he left St James'.

"But he's never got back in touch. We haven't fallen out though - you can't fall out with somebody you never talk to."

Meanwhile, the Newcastle striker Ian Rush is back on the goals trail - something which might worry his former club Leeds when the Magpies visit Elland Road tomorrow.

The Welsh international striker, who scored his first goal for Newcastle against Hull City in the Coca-Cola Cup on Wednesday, would love to score again at the weekend to celebrate next Monday's 36th birthday, but he said: "I have nothing to prove to them. And now after finally opening my account for Newcastle the pressure is off, and I can really look forward to going back."

"Kevin Keegan - My Autobiography" (Little Brown, hardback, £19.99)

BASEBALL

Cleveland
clinch upset

The Cleveland Indians, the team most thought would be a soft touch in the post-season, are heading to the World Series for the second time in three years. The Indians made it to the Series against the Florida Marlins by beating the Baltimore Orioles, 1-0, on an 11th-inning home run by Tony Fernandez on Wednesday.

The closeness of the contest was typical of the American League Championship Series series, which Cleveland captured 4-2, the margin of victory in each game being one run.

Fernandez was the latest in a string of play-off heroes for the Indians, but he played only because he accidentally hit the regular second baseman, Bip Roberts, on the hand in practice, forcing him to pull out.

It proved to have been a happy accident when Fernandez hit a two-out home run off Armando Benitez in the top of the 11th inning for the game's only run. "I just tried to drive the ball, and I got it into the right place in the park," he said.

The World Series begins in Miami on Saturday.

British sides' failure adds to sense of meaninglessness for WCC

There is a part of the world that is playing no part in the final of the Visa World Club Championship in Auckland today. Dave Hadfield looks at the ramifications of the lack of any British involvement in what was conceived as one of international rugby league's big events.

My friends in New Zealand thought it was some sort of elaborate hoax when I told them I was still coming here for the final of the World Club Championship.

"Strewth," said one, "that means there's one more person interested in it in Britain than there is here." That is a slight exaggeration, but this morning's climax of the competition has hardly set pulses racing, either in New Zealand or in Australia, the home base of the two finalists. There was not, for instance, a single word about it in either of Sydney's main daily papers - one of them

Murdoch-owned - yesterday. It would have been different in New Zealand if the Auckland Warriors had made it to the final, as they almost did in a stirring semi in Brisbane. But the thing that has fatally weakened the credibility of the competition from the start has been the failure of British teams to perform.

It is fair to say that the reputation of the British game has never been lower in the southern hemisphere. You can guarantee a good laugh in bars in Sydney or Auckland by merely mentioning the names of some of our leading club sides.

The strange thing is that there has not been a commensurate rise in the standing of Super League in Australasia. We might be greatly impressed by what Brisbane, Cronulla and the rest have done to our best sides, but it cuts little ice here. Victories in the WCC are seen as cheap and meaningless and certainly not as constituting an argument for the viability of Australian Super League as a stand-alone entity.

Yet both semi-finals, although sparsely attended, were gripping contests. In addition, there is the compelling story of

the Hunter Mariners, the doomed club that has somehow reached today's final, and their success comes close to finding a justification for the whole affair. If Australians love a battler, then they should have taken the Mariners to their hearts. So deep is the disillusionment running through the game, however, that their achievement remains generally unrecorded.

If the competition has been a disappointment in the southern hemisphere, it has been little short of a disaster in the north. No less a drum beater than the Rugby League's chief executive, Maurice Lindsay, has admitted that it has damaged the game's credibility in a way that will not be easy to repair.

The problem is this. We have been assured so often that the combined effect of Super League, summer rugby and full-time professionalism has raised standards behind recognition that most people believed it. Then along comes the WCC, which, to put it at its most charitable, throws that contention into severe doubt.

There are people who were happily going to domestic matches before the WCC, believing that they were seeing

rugby league played to a high level, but who have stopped going, realising now that what they were seeing was entertaining but inferior.

One of the most depressing aspects of the whole business has been the way that Australian players and coaches who know better have continually parroted the party line that the game in Britain has leapt ahead. The hard evidence says otherwise and that is something that has all manner of consequences.

It was no coincidence that News Corporation began their rumblings about how their money was being spent immediately after the group stages of the WCC had drawn attention to the true state of affairs.

And now, of course, blame has to be laid. Lindsay has placed it squarely on the shoulders of British players, accusing them of not being as professional or dedicated as their Australian counterparts.

There is some truth in this. The way that too many players are full-time professionals in name only showed in the embarrassing lack of appetite and application in some matches. But who has been better placed than Lindsay over the last few



Auckland's Stephen Kearney grapples with St Helens' Keiron Cunningham at Knowsley Road in June Photograph: Allsport

years to see the warning signs and act on them?

That process has now begun, notably through Joe Lydon's recommendations, which, if followed in spirit as well as the letter, should restore some of the hunger to British domestic competition.

If standards can be raised sufficiently, there is still the germ

of a good idea in the débacle of the WCC. As a top four play-off involving the best of British and the leading sides from a unified Australian competition, it would have hopes of becoming an annual highlight. In the meantime, the general indifference to events in Auckland today is the price to be paid for the British failure to meet the challenge.

End in sight to
great divide

The 24-year war between the governing bodies running professional and amateur rugby league in Britain finally showed signs of ending yesterday.

Bitter wrangling that has racked the sport since amateur officials broke away to set up the British Amateur Rugby League Association (Barla) in 1973 was cast aside at a historic meeting at the Posthouse Hotel in Brighouse, West Yorkshire.

The first step towards reunification was taken when Sir Rodney Walker, chairman of the Rugby Football League, and his Barla counterpart, Mike Morrissey, put their signatures to a partnership agreement setting up a Joint Policy Board.

Sir Rodney will chair the new board, which will comprise five members of Barla and an equal number of RFL representatives.

Bradford Bulls prop Brian McDermott has been called into the Great Britain squad for next month's British Gas Test series against Australia. The 27-year-old front-row forward has been added following the refusal of Western Suburbs to release former Leeds and Widnes forward Harvey Howard.

Possible Gascoigne move sets off scramble for signature

The news that Paul Gascoigne could be available for transfer has alerted at least three English clubs. Aston Villa and Tottenham Hotspur could face competition for the Rangers midfielder from an unlikely source - Crystal Palace. Alan Nixon reports

Paul Gascoigne trained with Rangers yesterday as speculation grew that he could soon be leaving Glasgow in order to return to England.

Sources at Rangers said that Aston Villa and Tottenham Hotspur had inquired about Gascoigne's availability, but that a third club - believed to be Crystal Palace - were also in the frame.

It is understood that Gascoigne has not yet decided whether he wants to leave Ibrox, although Rangers have hinted that he could leave the club if he so wished. The transfer fee would probably be between £3m and £4m, while the

buying club would also have to match Gascoigne's current wages, believed to be around £40,000 per week.

There have been reports that Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, advised Gascoigne that a return to English football would help him in his preparations for the World Cup next year. Gascoigne is understood to have spoken to Mel Stein, his solicitor and agent, about a possible transfer while he was on World Cup duty with England last week.

Villa and Tottenham are believed to have made firm in-

quiries, while Palace are also understood to have expressed an interest. Everton have also been suggested as a possible destination for the Rangers midfielder.

Villa are unlikely to conduct any negotiations until after their UEFA Cup match away to Athletic Bilbao next Tuesday. Brian Little, the Villa manager, refused to be drawn on the issue yesterday. "We don't talk about players who are under contract to other football clubs," he said. "It is not a policy of ours, never has been and never will be."

However, after Villa's dis-

appointing start to the season Gascoigne could be seen as the man to revive their fortunes. There were recriminations at Villa Park yesterday following Wednesday's 3-0 Coca-Cola Cup defeat at West Ham, with Gareth Southgate, the captain, accusing his colleagues of lacking desire.

"What happened at West Ham wasn't acceptable, and it's happened on too many occasions this season," Southgate said. "We didn't play with enough desire to get anything out of the game. I don't want to go into individuals, but I do

want to talk about the team - and as a group of players we need to pull our fingers out and live up."

Southgate, who has taken over the captaincy from the departed Andy Townsend, said he did not think he should have to motivate the players. "I think we have to look at ourselves as a team of players and to look at ourselves individually to decide which way we want to go. If we want to play like we did at West Ham, like a middle of the table side, then we're going the right way about it."

Palace's interest in Gascoigne is believed to be a consequence of the financial support they have received in recent months from a fan, Mark Goldberg, a London-based multi-millionaire businessman. Goldberg helped with the recruitment of Antonio Lombardo, Palace's Italian international, and is understood to be an acquaintance of Stein. There has been a flurry of transfer activity at Selhurst Park this week. Ivano Bonetti, the Italian midfielder who has also played for Grimsby and Tranmere, has joined Palace on a week-to-week basis, while an

exchange deal is being lined up to bring the Wolves full-back Jamie Smith to Selhurst Park, with the forward Dougie Freedman and the defender Kevin Muscat moving in the other direction.

Freedman's contract runs out at the end of the season and the Scottish striker is understood to be keen to move after failing to win a regular first-team place this season. Muscat, a 24-year-old Australian, is believed to want to move for similar reasons.

Gascoigne conundrum, page 30



Australia's Stuart Appleby plays out of a bunker at the 11th against France's Marc Farry at St Andrews yesterday. Appleby won, but France advanced 2-1 in the upset of the day

Photograph: David Ashdown

Ferguson rules Keane out of finals

The Manchester United manager, Alex Ferguson, yesterday ruled the Republic of Ireland midfielder Roy Keane out of next year's World Cup finals.

Ferguson does not believe Keane can recover from the cruciate ligament injury he suffered against Leeds earlier this month in time to play in France, should the Republic beat Belgium in the play-offs. "I think we could have him back training in April, but there's a big difference between training and taking part in football," Ferguson said. "You're looking more to the start of next season rather than the start of the World Cup in June."

Although the Argentinian club River Plate have now expressed an interest in selling their Chilean international striker Marcelo Salas, Ferguson has denied that a move to United is imminent for Salas.

Blackburn Rovers are to allow their Danish striker Per Pedersen to join the German side Borussia Mönchengladbach on loan for the season.

The Southampton striker Egil Olsenstad is to consult a specialist after breaking down with a recurrence of the ankle injury which has dogged him all season. The Norwegian, who failed to complete the first half of Tuesday's Coca-Cola Cup tie against Barnsley, could be out for several months.

Tottenham have denied reports that their striker Les Ferdinand has had a second operation on a stomach muscle injury and will be out of action for up to three months. He had a minor operation to cure an abdominal strain last Friday.

Alterations to the Old Course receive mixed reception

Alterations that have been made to the famous Old Course at St Andrews received a mixed reaction on the opening day of the Alfred Dunhill Cup. Andy Farrell reports.

The great attraction of this event is the venue. St Andrews has been steeped in golf longer than anywhere else in the world. Even the New Course here is more venerable than most elsewhere and the Old Course is exactly that, the old-

est, most unchanging setting for the ball-and-stick game.

Until now that is. The Old Course has been changed. The Auld Lady has been placed on a rack and extended by 161 yards. Six new tees have been built in an attempt to increase the level of torture experienced by modern-day professionals with their hi-tech balls and state of the art clubs.

Action was needed after John Daly won the Open here two years ago. His victory was not unexpected. Michael Bonallack, the secretary of the Royal & Ancient - who are more forward thinking than their image suggests - profited

from a wager that Long John would prevail that week.

The Old Course has always evolved - it was once played the "other way round", i.e. from the first tee to the 17th green - but there isn't a bunker in play. But that still exists. It doesn't make a difference for the golfers. It's wide open. You can reduce it to nothing. So I'm told.

At this point, James looked for guidance from his more youthful, long-hitting countryman Lee Westwood. "Mark plays a game with which I am not accustomed," the youngster chided his elder. "You won't want to become accustomed to it," James replied.

The English trio of James, Westwood and Russell Claydon beat Japan 3-0 to put pressure on the group's top seeds, America, who dropped a point to Argentina. There was not much subtlety about the English strategy. Claydon, at 16 stone and more, was put out against the lightest Japanese player, Tetsuya Watanabe, and told to "flatten" his opponent. This he did only thanks to Watanabe's double-bogey at the Road Hole, the 17th, one that is in no need of making tougher.

Justin Leonard set what is the new course record of 65, later equalled by Sweden's Jesper Parnevik, and had Curtis Strange's previous mark of 62

within his sights when he had eight birdies in his first 12 holes. The Open champion said: "I never thought I would be eight under on this course. I was not hitting it close, but holing a lot of 10 to 15 footers."

But with Brad Faxon losing to Angel Cabrera 68-72, the result of the match was decided when Mark O'Meara beat Eduardo Romero at the first extra hole. Romero birdied the 17th to bring the match level, but then went in the burn at the first.

The day's upset came from France, who beat Australia 2-1. Fabrice Tardieu matched Robert Allenby's birdie at the last to win by one, while Jean

Van de Velde holed from 25 feet at the first extra hole to beat Steve Elkington.

That leaves Sweden, who defeated Taiwan 3-0, in command in Group Two, while South Africa and Scotland both came out 2-1 winners over Ireland and Germany respectively in what should be the most closely fought group.

Scores, Sporting Digest, page 31

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD
No. 3432, Friday 17 October By Spurlin Thursday's solution

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ACROSS
1 Game in which viewers are kept in the dark? (5-4, 4)
10 Stars from old city appeal to Barbara, for instance (4, 5)
11 Coin head uppermost (5)
12 Over in Syria hitchhiking's fraught with danger (5)
13 Instrument attached to new sander is odd (6-3)
14 Royal attendant and king getting entangled in Eastern question (7)
16 Building may be seen by journalists provided formality's adhered to (7)
18 Soon English will be curtailed to accommodate religious education, see (7)
20 Register shows account opened by staff in Los Angeles (7)
21 Part-time soldier strives desperately to protect sov-

DOWN
23 Large vessel from Korea or Taiwan (5)
24 Extremists from Austria regularly interrupting writer's tyrant of praise (5)
25 Drinks supplier with magazine to deliver (9)
26 I'm entertained in a way that's impossible to put a figure on (13)
2 Weariness with which Scots girls accepted bet you offered ultimately (9)
3 Short time taken up by anti-development campaigner? (5)
4 Greatness and goodness - there's a witicism in that (7)
5 Tell North American artist to infiltrate Irish broadcasting (7)
6 Subtle trace one found in

THURSDAY'S SOLUTION
DESERT SPRING
O P A R T Y E N E
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MOTOR RACING
Villeneuve appeal withdrawn
Williams-Renault have taken the path of least resistance and accepted Jacques Villeneuve's punishment, which shifts the balance of the world championship in Michael Schumacher's favour. Derick Akshof reports

Williams-Renault have withdrawn their appeal against Jacques Villeneuve's disqualification at the Japanese Grand Prix, so forfeiting his two points and sending him into the final race of the Formula One world championship, on Sunday week, trailing Ferrari's Michael Schumacher by a point.

Villeneuve raced under appeal at Suzuka last Sunday after the stewards invoked a one-race ban - imposed at last month's Italian Grand Prix but suspended for nine races - on the Canadian for failing to slow down at yellow warning flags. He finished fifth, which provisionally kept him ahead of Schumacher, the race winner.

Few gave Villeneuve any hope of keeping the two points he earned at an FIA appeal court hearing, scheduled for next Tuesday and the president of the international governing body, Max Mosley, indicated that Williams should drop their case. He said Villeneuve risked not only losing his two points from Japan but also disqualification for the concluding European Grand Prix, at Jerez, which would hand the title to the German. Mosley, however, insisted he was not threatening the Oxfordshire-based team.

Clearly, however, Williams have interpreted the message to that effect and announced yesterday that "having reviewed all relevant circumstances" they had withdrawn the appeal.

A brief statement concluded: "The two points awarded to Jacques in Japan have been withdrawn and the penalty of a suspended one-race ban imposed on him at the Italian Grand Prix has been discharged."

BOXING
Pazienza has to pay fine to meet Graham
Vinnie Pazienza, a twice former world champion, will have to pay an outstanding fine of \$5,000 (£3,200) for hitting a referee if he is to fight Herol Graham on 6 December.

Pazienza is serving a 90-day suspension imposed by the New Jersey Commission for striking the official, Tony Orlando, in his last fight, against Dana Rosenblatt 14 months ago. Unless the American pays up, the British Board of Control will not allow him to meet Graham at the Goresbrook Leisure Centre in Dagenham.

However, Pazienza's manager, Art Petullo, insists the fine will be paid shortly.

Pazienza floored Orlando after stopping Rosenblatt in the fourth round of a World Boxing Union super-middleweight title fight in August 1996.

Graham's promoter, Frank Maloney, is ready to offer \$1m to the winner to meet either Robin Reid, the World Boxing Council title holder, or Joe Calzaghe, who has the World Boxing Organisation crown.

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